

Annual Report

DEATH WITH DIGNITY NATIONAL CENTER & POLITICAL FUND

2018



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

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On the cover, from top left: Member of our ground team Will Kane with Hawaii Governor David Ige holding the signed death with dignity statute; 1997 Oregon campaign team reunited at the 20th anniversary celebration of the law; advocate Elaine Fong (right) with her mother and sisters; volunteer and sustaining donor Joanne Busiel with her daughter; strategist Mark Glaze (left) with members of the D.C. Home Rule Coalition; Board member Deborah Ziegler with her daughter Brittany Maynard; California advocate Jordan Zweigorn with family; Maine advocate Donna Wiegler; Ohio advocate Molly McMahon Graziano; Dying Right North Carolina director Ed Tiryakian with NC bill co-sponsors and Diane Rehm; Ohio advocate Pamela Gredick; Maine Death with Dignity co-chair Valerie Lovelace launching the 2019 ballot measure petition

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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Looking Back, Moving Forward



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

A thousand thanks for making possible all of the progress described on the following pages. Whether you gave \$10, \$100, or \$1,000, your contribution, combined with 2,614 other supporters across the country, propels the death with dignity movement forward.

I'm so proud to share with you our recent accomplishments; pages 4 and 5 show a summary of your incredible impact.

OUR ACTIVITIES, YOUR PRIORITIES

This is not only a report on the past year's activities but a reflection of your priorities.

In the supporter survey we conducted earlier this year, you told us you wanted updates on our work in every region in the U.S., from states like Florida, where supporters are just beginning their organizing efforts, to jurisdictions like Washington, D.C., whose death with dignity statute is under attack from opponents seeking to nullify it.

The centerfold map provides a snapshot of our movement in 2017 and 2018.

NEXT UP: THE FIGHT FOR DIGNITY IN CALIFORNIA

Our most urgent work is in California, where the End of Life Option Act we worked so hard to pass three years ago is in jeopardy.

The law was overturned in May by a district court judge before being temporarily reinstated by an appellate court in June. At press time, the law is still in effect—but the stay granted by the court is temporary, and the fate of the law remains uncertain. In July, we filed an amicus brief to support the State of California's efforts to permanently reinstate the law.

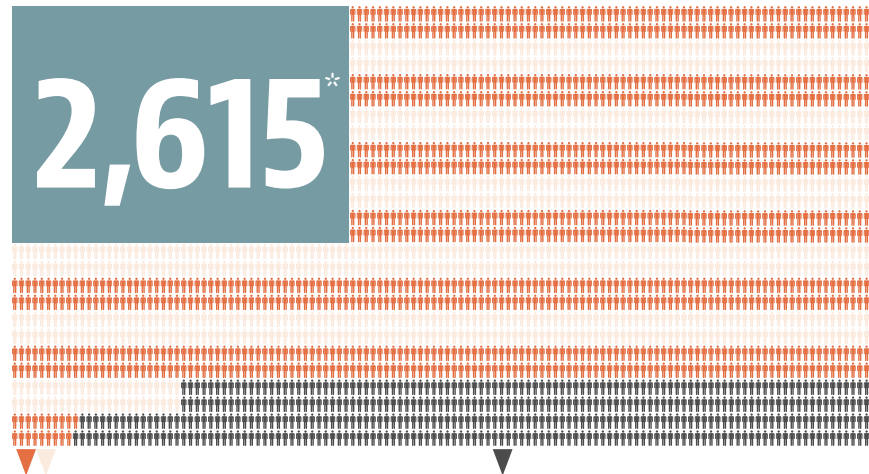
The court battle will be long, but our track record of success and your steadfast support give us confidence we will prevail.

Your continued commitment to Death with Dignity gives our movement strength in numbers.

Thank you,

George Eighmey, JD
President, Board of Directors

Your Impact: The Year in Numbers



* Individuals who made gifts to Death with Dignity during our last fiscal year (4/1/2017–3/31/2018)

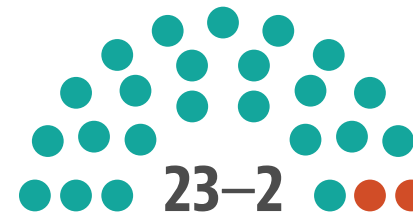
431 Gifts made by first-time supporters

\$109.46

Average individual donation



States where we supported advocates through the Dignity50 State Leadership Incubator program (FL, HI, KS, ME, NC, OH, PA, SD, OH, TX).



HAWAII State Senate's vote to pass the Our Care, Our Choice Act on March 29, 2018, weeks after the House passed it 39–12. Governor David Ige signed the bill into law on April 5, which culminated a 16-year campaign for assisted dying in the Aloha State.

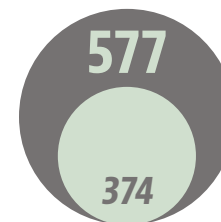
19.85
MILLION

Americans who will gain access to the death with dignity option when **NEW YORK** legislators pass the Medical Aid in Dying Act. We have formed a strong alliance with three other organizations to advocate for assisted dying legislation in the Empire State.



13 Organizations in the **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** Home Rule Coalition working to protect D.C.'s laws from congressional interference.

As part of the coalition, we successfully prevented Congress from repealing D.C.'s Death with Dignity Act through the 2018 budget process, and we are fighting to protect the law in the 2019 budget as well.



Number of terminally ill patients who received prescriptions for aid-in-dying medication under the **CALIFORNIA** End of Life Option Act in 2017.

Number of Californians with prescriptions who took the medications to end their lives. This corresponds to 135 assisted deaths per 100,000 total deaths in California.

Year when a death with dignity statute will appear on the MAINE ballot

2019

Death with Dignity Across the Nation

CALIFORNIA: DEFENDING

In May a district judge invalidated the End of Life Option Act. The law has been temporarily reinstated, but we face a potentially lengthy court battle to permanently protect the law. We have filed an *amicus curiae* brief arguing death with dignity is part of end-of-life care and that overturning the law will harm terminally ill Californians seeking the option.

NEW YORK: COLLABORATING

We have formed an official alliance with three other organizations to push for policy reform in the Empire State. Together, we are working to build support for the Medical Aid in Dying Act.

MAINE: ADVANCING

We are providing strategic and financial support to a 2019 ballot initiative campaign. In collaboration with grassroots partners, we launched the Maine Death with Dignity political action committee, and kicked off the petition drive in April. Signature gathering will continue through winter.

D.C.: PROTECTING

We have kept opponents of death with dignity in Congress from nullifying the D.C. Death with Dignity Act. We continue to work with D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and other legislative champions to quash the renewed attempts to hamper the law via the appropriations process.

FLORIDA: INITIATING

We provide tools, training, and advice to help our supporters in states without death with dignity laws become effective advocates. Recently, we built a website and provided strategic guidance to a grassroots group of Floridians who are raising awareness and garnering support for death with dignity legislation.

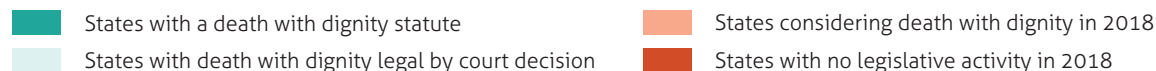
HAWAII: CELEBRATING

By signing the Our Care, Our Choice Act into law on April 5, Hawai'i Governor David Ige made the Aloha State the 7th jurisdiction with an assisted-dying statute. From drafting an early death with dignity bill in 2002 to working successfully to pass a bill this spring, we are proud to have been a part of the long journey to victory in Hawai'i.

“There is power in the will of the people. We can do this.”

—DON LANDRY, FLORIDA

DEATH WITH DIGNITY MOVEMENT IN 2018



Our 2017–2018 Finances*

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	2018	2017
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 156,291	\$ 298,753
Prepaid expenses	\$ 4,513	\$ 13,508
Investments	\$ 709,408	\$ 208,534
Property and equipment, net	\$ 10,878	\$ 12,169
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 881,090	\$ 532,964
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 45,438	\$ 45,086
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 45,438	\$ 45,086
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets:		
Undesignated	\$ 751,353	\$ 408,854
Board designated	\$ 68,982	\$ 62,577
Property and equipment, net	\$ 10,878	\$ 12,169
Total unrestricted net assets	\$ 831,213	\$ 483,600
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 4,439	\$ 4,278
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 835,652	\$ 487,878
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 881,090	\$ 532,964

Consolidated Statements of Activities

	2018			2017		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Total
REVENUE & SUPPORT						
Contributions	\$ 1,215,388	\$ 2,180	\$ 1,217,568	\$ 865,262	\$ 9,432	\$ 874,694
In-kind contributions	\$ 36,473	-	\$ 36,473	\$ 13,897	-	\$ 13,897
Investment income, net	\$ 1,801	-	\$ 1,801	\$ 17,993	-	\$ 17,993
Other income	\$ 454	-	\$ 454	\$ 246	-	\$ 246
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Satisfaction of purpose restrictions	\$ 2,019	\$ (2,019)	-	\$ 6,952	\$ (6,952)	-
TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$ 1,256,135	\$ 161	\$ 1,256,296	\$ 904,350	\$ 2,480	\$ 906,830
EXPENSES						
Program services						
Public education	\$ 189,639	-	\$ 189,639	\$ 184,935	-	\$ 184,935
Communication	\$ 202,396	-	\$ 202,396	\$ 179,047	-	\$ 179,047
Oregon Plus One	\$ 269,774	-	\$ 269,774	\$ 191,640	-	\$ 191,640
Total program services	\$ 661,809	-	\$ 661,809	\$ 555,622	-	\$ 555,622
Management & general	\$ 117,162	-	\$ 117,162	\$ 86,652	-	\$ 86,652
Fundraising	\$ 129,551	-	\$ 129,551	\$ 151,373	-	\$ 151,373
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 908,522	-	\$ 908,522	\$ 793,647	-	\$ 793,647
Change in net assets	\$ 347,613	\$ 161	\$ 347,774	\$ 110,703	\$ 2,480	\$ 113,183
NET ASSETS						
Beginning of year	\$ 483,600	\$ 4,278	\$ 487,878	\$ 372,897	\$ 1,798	\$ 374,695
End of year	\$ 831,213	\$ 4,439	\$ 835,652	\$ 483,600	\$ 4,278	\$ 487,878

* The amounts in the sections "Consolidated Statement of Financial Position" and "Consolidated Statements of Activities" are derived from audited financial statements for the 2018 fiscal year, which ran from April 1, 2017, to March 31, 2018. Full financial statements for the year as well as tax forms are available at DeathwithDignity.org/About/Financials; hard copies are available at 520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1220, Portland, OR 97204.

To review our financial statements, visit
DeathWithDignity.org/About/Financials

The Story Behind the Financials

You've seen the numbers and scanned the charts. These are the stories behind the figures.

YEAR-OVER-YEAR GROWTH

We have increased our revenue 137 percent since 2014.

THE IMPACT OF BEQUESTS

Planned gifts had an immense impact on our finances this year.

We received \$762,152 from the estates of five visionary donors. These forward-thinking supporters provide the movement with a strong foundation for the years ahead. We remember them for their dedication to the cause, which lives on through their legacy giving.


A GROWING ENDOWMENT

Through strategic investments that favor long-haul success over short-

term gain, we have made the most of the resources at our disposal. The growth of our endowment reflects this careful and narrow approach to stewarding gifts.

We use endowment funds when we know we can further our movement with an influx of cash to a program in need. We're not just socking money away, we spend it down when we know we can make a difference for a program or initiative, and then we build it back up.

STATE-BASED SUPPORT

For the first time in our nonprofit organization's history, we disbursed grants to state-based advocacy organizations working to promote death with dignity on the local level. It's just one way we are investing in our grassroots leaders and promoting lasting change. 

Our Commitment to Transparency

We are honored by your support and take stewarding your contributions—and earning your trust—seriously. Our financials are audited annually by an independent accounting firm, and we voluntarily undergo external evaluation by:



We meet all 20 of the Better Business Bureau's Standards for Charity Accountability



We hold GuideStar's Platinum rating

Honoring My Mother

By Cayla Miller, Maine

My mother was diagnosed with colon cancer a month before my wedding in 2013. A longtime hospice chaplain, she was intimately acquainted with the details of end-of-life care. When her own end drew near, she took charge of her own hospice care. She didn't want to be helpless, she didn't want to be in pain, she didn't want to linger in uncertainty. And I know she wanted to spare us the added trauma of watching a difficult death. It was not a choice she got to make in the end.

I pledged to my mother that I would help to pass a law in Maine so others who are suffering would be able to have their choice.

That is why I am working with Death with Dignity National Center and Maine Death with Dignity on their campaign to place an assisted dying measure on the 2019 ballot.


I was proud to be the first to sign the petition and am committed to gathering signatures from Mainers.



Cayla Miller with her mother, Eva Thompson

I know that three in four Mainers support death with dignity, and I will work to make sure their voices are heard and we vote together to make assisted dying a reality for our state's terminally ill residents.

The right to make one's exit gracefully before the pain and helplessness become unbearable should be a right we all have. This is allowing a dying person to make their own decision at the very end of their life.

I am doing this for my mother, and for all those like her—it is how I choose to honor her memory. 



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