



compassion & choices

Annual Report 2006

"It brings me to tears to think of how desperate, lonely and isolated my parents have been these past few years. Reaching out to you and having your wonderful, empathetic, even-keeled response has absolutely changed their lives."

– Daughter of a Compassion & Choices client

From the Chairman

Dear Members, Supporters and Friends,

In the short time since our merger was ratified, Compassion & Choices has emerged as the leader in the movement for improved palliative care, pain management and access to choice at the end of life.

I'm pleased to present you with our annual report, which outlines achievements significant in number and scope.

Our legal advocacy team partnered with Oregon's attorney general to triumph at the U.S. Supreme Court in *Gonzales v. Oregon*. Our executives and national and local board members devoted countless hours to warding off the threat the Ashcroft ruling posed to individual liberties and state's rights.

Compassion & Choices clients, who served as patient plaintiffs, were crucial to our victory in the case. Their participation would not have been possible without the trusting relationship between these terminally ill patients and our client support team. Our trained, caring volunteers are serving more clients than ever before, providing access to counseling and end-of-life care information for all who need it.

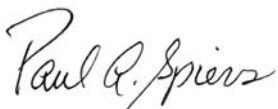
Other notable accomplishments include finishing our first fiscal year in the black. We waged vigorous legislative campaigns in California and Vermont. Though neither resulted in the outcome we sought, they were enormously successful in terms of coalition-building and forging of allies who will stand with us in future legislative sessions.

As someone who has witnessed the evolution of Compassion & Choices, I am proud of what our organization has become. With growth and change, there is always a little chaos. We have weathered the transition, and are off and running. In large measure, that is thanks to all of you. I am pleased to report that our supporter ranks, whether as members or donors, have grown over this past year.

As Compassion & Choices continues to evolve, the board of directors is actively seeking out new faces to support our executive staff and provide thoughtful governance. As this process goes forward, your board is committed to consolidating and protecting both the organization's human and financial resources.

Please join us in our dedication. Help us either financially or with your time, by participating in a campaign or as a client services volunteer. Only together can we achieve a society where a peaceful death is promised to all and where patient-directed aid in dying is protected by law and has become commonplace.

Warmest regards,



Paul A. Spiers, Ph.D.

Chairman, Board of Directors, Compassion & Choices





Sandy Bush, Compassion & Choices Client

A Voice for Families

Sandy Bush's fondness for roaming cross-country in his motor home symbolizes the independence he held dear. The retired engineer, professor and pilot returned home from months on the open road with his wife Joann to learn he had aggressive prostate cancer.

When doctors offered him no hope for a cure, overwhelming fear of a painful, prolonged death took hold. That's when Sandy found Compassion & Choices.

"I could not accept the fact that I might have been in a hospital, hooked up to machines, unable to breathe, or with a feeding tube. I now have the knowledge that I don't have to suffer, and that information was enough to give me a new life. I simply needed to know that I could have control over my own life," Sandy told us.

As the cloud of fear lifted, Sandy was free to live in and enjoy the moment. He soon began to speak out on the power and importance of compassionate choice, becoming one of our most beloved and passionate supporters.

In October 2006, surrounded by his family and the mountains he loved, Sandy met a peaceful death. His journey from fear to hope illustrates how the dignity of choice enhances the will to live.



Charlene Andrews, Compassion & Choices Client

A Voice for **Change**

On January 17, 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court shielded the Oregon Death with Dignity Act from a Bush administration challenge by a ruling of 6–3. In *Gonzales v. Oregon*, the court held the attorney general does not have the authority to radically shift the balance of state and federal power in medical regulation. This historic victory clears a path for similar laws to be enacted across the country.

As one of the 16 patient plaintiffs in the case, Charlene Andrews embodied the very definition of courage. After teaching in a remote Alaskan village for over a year, Charlene returned to Salem to face a diagnosis of Stage 4 breast cancer. The ravages of chemotherapy did not stop her from giving Oregon's terminally ill a face and voice on the steps of the Supreme Court.

Knowing that I have this law, I can concentr

“Knowing that I have this law, I can concentrate on living life to the fullest. A good death is part of my spiritual journey, I respect the religious beliefs of others and I expect them to respect mine.”

– Charlene Andrews, *National Press Club*, October 4, 2005

Just seven months after celebrating our triumph, Charlene succumbed to her illness without using the law that provided her with such peace of mind. Her inspirational words and deeds ensured that terminally ill Oregonians have the option of a peaceful, humane death.



Rev. Ignacio Castuera, CCCA Supporter

A Voice for **Community**

A Compassionate Campaign in California: The earnest campaign to enact the California Compassionate Choices Act came to an end in late June when it was defeated by a single vote in the state Senate Judiciary Committee. Within defeat, we see enormous victories. We propelled the cause into the public consciousness, won the support of every major newspaper and made advocates out of public figures, clergy, physicians and organizations. With such impassioned supporters, the road ahead will surely lead to compassionate choice in California.

“People of different faiths and beliefs agree that life is sacred and should be respected and preserved as long as humanly possible. However, when death is imminent, it is entirely respectful to the sanctity of life to allow a person to decide for himself or herself when and how they can ease their pain and suffering in a dignified manner.”

– Rev. Ignacio Castuera, Ph.D., *St. John’s United Methodist Church in Watts, California*

A Quiet Victory for the Dying in Colorado: That is how the *Denver Post* described the passage of Senate Bill 102. Compassion & Choices of Colorado conceived the bill to protect medical caregivers from prosecution under the state’s manslaughter law for providing palliative care to the terminally ill. The pioneering law is easing fears of caregivers and providing hope to dying patients in Colorado.

“Fifty percent of patients who die in institutions experience pain that could be treated, but is not. With one barrier removed, Colorado physicians can now be more aggressive in efforts to relieve pain and suffering at the end of life.”

– Dick VandenBergh, *Compassion & Choices of Colorado*



Julie McMurchie, Surviving Family Member

A Voice for **The Movement**

The Sacramento Bee, National Public Radio, The New York Times and CNN. Coverage of the critical message of Compassion & Choices in local press and on national networks sparked conversations from the dinner table to the statehouse.

Oregon's Death with Dignity Act commanded the national spotlight in the weeks surrounding the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Gonzales v. Oregon*. Compassion & Choices spokespersons honorably made the case for Oregon's law.

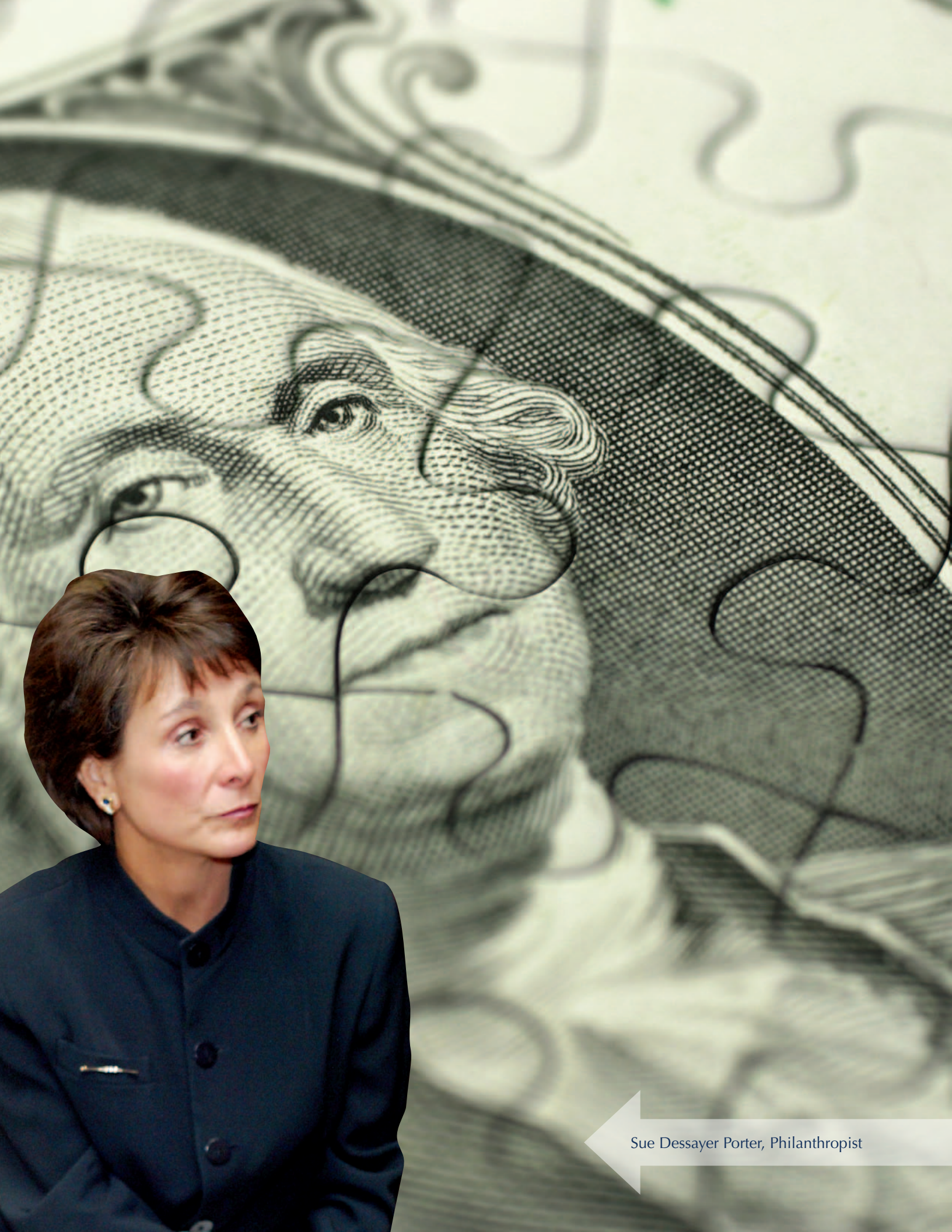
"This gives tremendous comfort to terminally ill patients in Oregon who, in facing protracted, difficult deaths know they have the option for a peaceful and humane death if their suffering becomes intolerable. So their right to make that choice is preserved."

– Kathryn Tucker, Compassion & Choices Legal Director
"The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," January 17, 2006

Compassion & Choices testified at Sen. Sam Brownback's Judiciary subcommittee hearing on "assisted suicide and euthanasia," thoroughly refuting myths surrounding legalized aid in dying.

"My final memories of my mother are profoundly loving and supportive. May we all be so lucky to die surrounded by those we love most in the world. May we all be so lucky to have the last eyes we see and the last touch we feel be that of our children."

– Julie McMurchie, Surviving Family Member
U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee Testimony, May 25, 2006



Sue Dessayer Porter, Philanthropist

A Voice for Giving

Sue Dessayer Porter sees choice-in-dying through the eyes of the terminally ill. As a volunteer, she shepherds clients through the stages of Oregon's Death with Dignity Act and is present in their final moments. Sue couples her one-on-one commitment with generous financial contributions to Compassion & Choices and its Oregon affiliate. One day, she hopes to see an Oregon-style law in every state.

“It’s an honor to be part of this vital political, social and personal movement. When it comes to the intense suffering of a terminally ill person, it’s a matter of choice, dignity and control. Society must respect the beliefs of those who wish to have a peaceful, humane death.”

– Sue Dessayer Porter, *Volunteer and Donor*

The late Irene Diamond made her professional and philanthropic mark on the world by never giving up on a cause close her heart. As a Hollywood story editor, she backed the script that would later become “Casablanca.” As a generous humanitarian, Irene championed AIDS research, human rights issues and the performing arts. Her vision of a better society extended to compassionate end-of-life choices.

“Irene Diamond was both a visionary and a pragmatist who funded bold and brave initiatives. Her support for Compassion & Choices reflected her deep interest in the issue of healthcare. It also illustrated her commitment to freedom of thought and expression. The Irene Diamond Fund’s financial support for capacity building is evidence of our belief in an organization, its mission and its leaders.”

– Jane Silver, *Irene Diamond Fund President*

A Voice for Gratitude

The choice-in-dying movement is never short on heroes. In the pages of this report, you read the story of Sandy Bush. After reeling from a terminal cancer diagnosis, he had the fortitude to educate others about the urgency of expanding choice at the end of life. You met Charlene Andrews. As she endured the side effects of chemotherapy, she bravely defended Oregon's Death with Dignity Act as a patient plaintiff in *Gonzales v. Oregon*. We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to these courageous champions of compassionate choice.

Client support is the heart and soul of Compassion & Choices. We often receive letters of sincere thanks from clients and their families. One recent note lauded our ability to ease suffering. "I felt supported and honored in who I am and what I want from my conscious leaving and that it can be peaceful, beautiful and sacred. Your work is beyond words for bringing hope and dignity to people like me," a client wrote. Such thoughts inspire our movement and fuel our mission.

Compassion & Choices has grown into a substantial community, more than 40,000 strong, dedicated to human dignity and mercy. But dedication, like faith, means nothing without the good work that brings it to life. The good works of Compassion & Choices, such as our Client Support Program, are made possible by your dedication to choices, comfort and hope for individuals facing the end of their days.

Without your generosity of spirit and strength of conviction, our efforts to improve care and expand choice at the end of life could not thrive. On behalf of the entire Compassion & Choices team, we thank you for your unwavering support of our programs and services. Together, by our works, we show our dedication to choice, respect and kindness in the world.



Barbara Coombs Lee
President



Marsha Temple
Executive Director

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In memory of Maria de los Angeles Sozio:
Dr. Robert J. Perez
Judith A. Perez
Janet H. Schluger
Reverend Barbara C. Raven
In memory of Shelley Dicksteen:
Joan E. Lissauer
In memory of Melinda Face:
Alan K. Face
In memory of Clara Felix:
Gretchen S. Felix
In memory of Mark Flapan:
Helene Flapan

In memory of T. P. Gorman:
John Gorman
In memory of Dr. George Greenberg:
David L. Reuther
Margaret A. Reuther
In memory of A.E. Griffin & Mary Casey Bates:
Patricia B. Simun
In memory of Linda Jane:
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Taylor
In memory of Allene Harris:
Timothy Harris
In memory of Elizabeth Harrison:
Harriet E. Miller
In memory of Carol Hatfield:
Patricia Ellis Bixby
In memory of Steven H. Hawkins:
Shannon Hawkins
In memory of Betty Heckel:
Mary Francis
In memory of Suzanne Heriza:
Julie A. Lay
In memory of Louise F. Hewitt:
Robert W. Hewitt
In memory of Nathaniel E. Jones:
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In memory of her mother:
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Gertrude Pojman
In memory of Robert Riva:
Herbert Rivkin
In memory of Irene Tregoning Rogers & Bradley Ethan Rogers:
Wallace Rogers
In memory of Al Rosen:
Leslie H. Rosen
In memory of Flossie Rowlings:
Linda Lowack

In memory of Anna C. Rubin:
Seth Rubin
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Karen M. Kurtzman, Ph.D.
In memory of Paul Skret:
Claire F. Hull
In memory of Milton B. Sloane, M.D.:
Leonore C. Sloane
In memory of Paul & Ruth Smith:
Dr. Michael S. Smith
Dr. Janice R. L. Smith
In memory of Helen Sobell:
Sydney G. Clemens
In memory of Harvey & Dorothy Stangel and Howard & Kay Cottam:
Mr. & Mrs. James H. Stangel
In memory of Victor Stara:
Louise A. Stara
In memory of Lawrence Stephens, Sr.:
Lawrence Stephens
In memory of Glassell Stringfellow:
Leslie S. Haydel
In memory of Polly Strand:
Lindsay Vurek
In memory of Janice Swanson:
Mr. & Mrs. Mel Watts
In memory of Helen Turin:
Andrew Viterbi
Thomas S. Loo
Nora E. Wagner
In memory of Addy Turtur:
George J. Scardena
In memory of Leona Wallace:
Deecie Zimmerman
In memory of Manny Warren:
Jonathan Pierce
In memory of Herman Warsh:
Barbara Margerum
In memory of Roger Weeks:
Patricia A. Weeks
In memory of Bertrum Wolfe:
Leila A. Wolfe

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In honor of the Leifers' 59th Anniversary:
Maureen L. McCoy
In honor of Eileen Tucker:
Holly A. & Peter A. Telfer
Pat Tucker
In honor of Sandy Bush:
Lauren Kleinfeld
In honor of Manzi McMahon:
Sharon Miller
In honor of Ben Linton:
Harriet Belkin
In honor of Faith Norris:
Joan N. & Barry P. Boothe
In honor of Herman Warsh:
Warsh Mott Funds
In honor of Helen Turin:
Paul Scott
In honor of Laura M. Parral:
Lisa M. Parral

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Champions make recurring, automatic gifts to Compassion & Choices.
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Robert D. Albright, J.D.
Elyn F. Aviva

Mary Elen & Georg Babbe
Forrest Barker
Barbara J. Benjaminson
Gertrude Bock
Howard H. Bondy
John W. Borden
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bardbury
Elizabeth Braham
Paula Brody
Joy D. Brower
Jean C. Bruce
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David T. Chantler
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Priscilla A. Coleman
Emily H. Coleman
Maria Comninou
Olinda H. & Gordon Corin
Tona Cornette
Pamela Crean
Cora S. Cronemeyer
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Legacy Circle members have made
 Compassion & Choices part of their
 estate plans.

Gordon Bell
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The following donors supported
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 Earl V. Gould & Susan White
 Chapman Young III
 Mr. & Mrs. J. David Yount

Financial Statement

Combined Statement of Financial Position*

June 30, 2006

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,560,659
Other receivables	590,472
Investments	909,819
Book Inventory	3,219
Prepaid Expenses	37,292
Total Current Assets	3,101,461

Property and Equipment, Net 176,807

Other Assets:

Intangible Assets	7,010
Deposits	14,523

Total Other Assets 21,533

Total Assets 3,299,801

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	19,882
Accrued Payroll and Payroll Taxes	119,133
Accrued Liabilities	14,033
Total Current Liabilities	153,048

Gift Annuity Payments Due 336,150

Total Liabilities 489,198

Net Assets:

Unrestricted	2,494,234
Temporarily Restricted	316,369

Total Net Assets 2,810,603

Total Liabilities and Net Assets 3,299,801

Combined Statement of Activities*

For the Year Ended June 30, 2006

Support and Revenue:

Contributions	\$4,916,196
Membership Fees	581,279
Sales	5,916
Investment Income	60,301
Unrealized Loss on Investments	(1,364)
Loss on Disposal of Property / Equipment	(798)
Total Support and Revenue	5,561,530

Expenses:

Programs	4,234,267
General and Administrative	382,842
Fund Raising	343,390
Total Expenses	4,960,499

Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets 601,031

Net Assets Released from Restrictions 111,581

Unrestricted Net Assets at Beginning of the Year 1,781,622

Unrestricted Net Assets at End of Year \$2,494,234

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Contributions	\$307,484
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	(111,581)
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets at Beginning of Year	120,466

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets at End of Year \$316,369

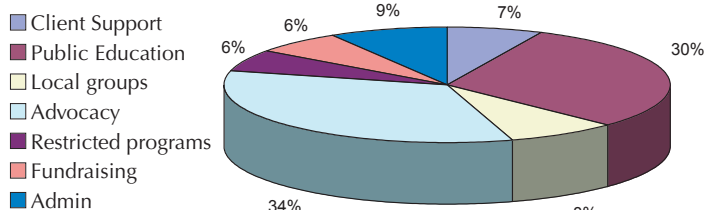
UNRESTRICTED AND TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Change in Net Assets \$908,515

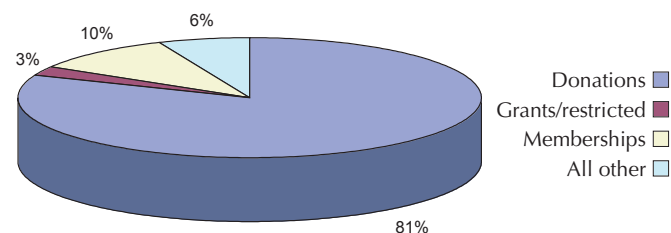
Net Assets at Beginning of Year 1,902,088

Net Assets at End of Year \$2,810,603

Expenses by Program



Revenue by Type



*The complete audited financial statement for the year ended June 30, 2006 is available either online at:
www.compassionandchoices.org/educationcenter/publication.php or by request via U.S. mail (contact us at 800.247.7421).

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