

June 2011



Recognizing the *dignity* of *EVERY* person

COMPASSION IN ACTION—USA

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Our Mission

Compassion In Action—USA is committed to providing personal advocacy services to our community members who are struggling with a health-related crisis. We will provide assistance to each person until they have received the medical services and disability benefits they are eligible for, so they may live in *dignity*.

What We Do

We provide advocates to assist those in our communities who are seriously ill through the process of acquiring Social Security, SSI Disability, and other needed services.

We Can Help!

(626) 967-6800

Helping Our Clients Regain Their *Dignity!*

We, at Compassion In Action (CIA), believe every person has the right to have their basic needs met and live with *dignity*. In today's society, advocating to get basic needs met can be a challenge when one is feeling healthy. Imagine, if you will, advocating for yourself when you are not feeling well. Navigating the system, trying to convince others that you need services you deserve, and following up on the mountains of paperwork that needs to be completed can leave someone that is healthy feeling discouraged and can be debilitating for someone that is ill.

CIA is here to support those in our communities who are seriously ill through the process of acquiring Social Security, SSI Disability and other needed services so they can live with *dignity!* CIA considers itself a success when we hear stories from our clients that have helped them to regain their *dignity*.



Our client, Gabe, describes his experience with CIA as awesome! His CIA advocate assisted him with getting his Social Security Disability benefits when he was too ill to do it himself. His advocate went with him to speak to his doctor and get the documentation needed to prove the seriousness of his disability. Gabe stresses that without CIA he would not have the income and medical care he needs to care for himself and his wife.

Our client, Sue, describes CIA as a godsend! Both she and her husband were ill and on the verge of having no income. Sue explains that her advocate was very knowledgeable about the paperwork that needed to be

completed and what to do to move the process along faster. Sue continues to explain that it was reassuring to have someone who knows the system, was on her side, and could help get through the process in a quick and timely manner. Sue and her husband are very grateful for all the help that CIA gave them.

Our client, Mrs. B, was left medically stranded after experiencing a steroid induced coma, and didn't know what to do or where to turn. She had been denied SSI, even though she was physically and financially left without a way to take care of herself. The stress of it all was unbearable, knowing that she'd be sick and on the streets if she didn't get help soon. A friend of hers suggested she call CIA. After speaking with a CIA advocate on the phone, Mrs. B wept. **FINALLY** someone believed that she was as sick as she was and was willing to help her. Barbara walked Mrs. B through the SSI process, took her to see her doctor, and helped her get the immediate help she needed financially.

Mrs. B states that most importantly, her advocate, Barbara, held her hand and treated her with *dignity* and with true compassion. She further explains that Barbara made her feel so special, as if she were Barbara's only client. Mrs. B was pleasantly surprised when she attended a CIA function, and found that MANY people had received help from CIA and that they all felt the same way about Barbara as she did. Mrs. B quickly realized that this woman, Barbara, was truly a gift from God. Barbara Case and CIA saved her life, and she is very grateful.

We'd like to have more of these great stories! Check out **pages 2-5** for ways **YOU** can help us to help more clients regain their *dignity!*



Letter From Our President

Dear Friends,

Summer is almost here! The sunshine outside our office window reflects the hope and joy our advocates are bringing to our clients!

Compassion continues to win approval of Social Security Disability benefits for our clients, not only bringing them income, but also stability and a return to self reliance. This is the **dignity** that is spoken of numerous times in this Newsletter. Without **dignity** depression and despair set in. When a client enters our office for the first time that despair and depression shows in their face and in their voice, but by the time they have completed their intake with us, those feelings have changed to hope and tears of joy. They know they have an advocate that will fight for them and will show them compassion – **COMPASSION IN ACTION!**

In addition to Social Security Disability benefits, Compassion has fought for and quickly won approval of Medi-Cal and other necessary services needed for the survival and security of our clients. We have had many terminally ill clients who have called us desperately searching for someone who can assist them with acquiring the medical care they need. Their local Medi-Cal office has either turned them away or told them the process for approval based on disability will take a year or more. Can you imagine being terminally ill and being told to wait a year or more for medical care?

Every client who has called us in this situation has gotten Medi-Cal within two weeks or less – often in only one to two days - of contacting us. We go into action —**COMPASSION IN ACTION**— and don't put the phone down until we have gotten the action needed on the other end. We believe that **dignity** must be returned and returned quickly and that is what we do here at Compassion! Because of you – our friends – Compassion has thrived and grown, providing compassionate advocates for more than nine years in the San Gabriel Valley and beyond, even to states on the East Coast! The economy has affected Compassion's budget just as it has your family and the business or agency you own or work for. All of us are tightening our belts.

Because we are all volunteers at Compassion our clients have always found our doors open and advocates available. But we cannot continue to do that without the support of you – our friends. Please remember Compassion and the **dignity** and stability we are returning to our clients when you are choosing an organization for your donations. There are a variety of ways to make a donation and they can be found on our website's donor page: <http://www.compassioninaction.us/donation.html>

This past year we lost our most valiant supporter - my husband Phil. His year and a half battle with cancer ended in October, but his beautiful spirit will be with us forever. This newsletter is dedicated to his memory. He will never be forgotten!

Have a wonderful Summer filled with relaxation and joyful memories and thanks again from all of us at Compassion for being our Friend!

Sincerely,

Barbara

Barbara Case



“We go into action, and don't put the phone down until we have gotten the action needed on the other end!”

YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS

Please send donations to:



COMPASSION IN ACTION
PO Box 383
San Dimas, CA 91773

PayPal & Credit Card donations
can be made on our website:

www.compassioninaction.us

We are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit
EIN#61-1422369

All donations are tax deductible!



Barbara & Phil Case

Donations can be made in Phil's memory at:

http://www.compassioninaction.us/event_memorial.cfm?eventid=45

Proposed Budget Cuts = Less Benefits for Our Clients

We are all aware that our economy has taken a downturn. This affects all of our lives and our budgets, but those who are disabled have really been hit hard.

A recipient of SSI in the state of California is not eligible for food stamps because CA supplements the Federal SSI payment. In 2009 the maximum benefit for those receiving SSI was \$907 (\$674 FED and \$233 CA). That benefit was reduced in October 2009 to \$845 (\$674 FED and \$171 CA). The total benefit will be further reduced to \$830 in July 2011 (\$674 FED and \$150 CA).

Not many of us could survive on a total income of \$830 a month with the cost of housing in California and that is even more difficult for someone who is disabled, must visit their doctor often, take medications and purchase their food without any food stamps. Even with subsidized disabled transportation and Medi-Cal, any expense cuts further into the available dollars for housing and food.

In addition to the reduction in income, other services for the disabled have either been cut or are facing proposed cuts. Adult Day Health Centers that provide essential services for our vulnerable senior and adult disabled have been completely eliminated in the Governor's latest budget. At this printing, many have already closed their doors.

In-Home-Support-Services which provide assistance in the home with meal prep, laundry, shopping, bathing, etc. so that the disabled can remain in their homes has also been on the chopping block. The Public Authorities who supply training to the providers have had their funding cut at least 37%. If proposed changes to IHSS do not result in the expected savings, enacted legislation also requires an across the board reduction in authorized hours for IHSS recipients beginning October 1, 2012 to make up the shortfall.

Other services that have been cut or have had major changes in the latest budget are:

1. County responsibility for services to children with Emotional and Mental illnesses has been eliminated—schools will be forced to manage this service
2. Elimination of the Departments of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Programs without a clear plan yet for how these services will be administered
3. Medi-Cal recipients (disabled and seniors) are being forced into managed-care in a manner that seems to lack the time needed for such a large transition. This increases the possibility of loss of services currently being received by the disabled
4. If approved by the federal government and beneficiary and provider notifications can take place by November 1, 2011, Medi-Cal recipients will be forced

to share in the cost of their services:

- \$5.00 co-pay for doctor, dental and clinic visits
 - \$100 a day (\$200 max) copayment for hospital stays
 - \$3/\$5 co-pay on prescription drugs
5. Services for the developmentally disabled are being further cut and this is severely affecting those in this disabled population and their families.

As you can see, SSI recipients who require multiple doctor visits and prescriptions will no longer be able to afford their current housing and will have fewer dollars for food. This will have a catastrophic affect on our clients. Compassion will keep you apprised of the effects of the cuts to state programs serving the disabled once the California budget and legislation are finalized. We will continue to network and find programs in the non-profit arena that will fill the gaps in services needed by our clients to maintain their *dignity* and provide them with "compassion in action".

Thank You!

To those of you who financially support **Compassion In Action**, and take the opportunity to walk with us hand-in-hand. As a donor partner, your

Our Recent Donor Partners!

Glenkirk Presbyterian
Church
Candice Goennier
Arthur Herrera
John Macias
Pat Myers
Dana Navarro
Pat Sexton
Linda Waade
United Way of
Central & Northeastern

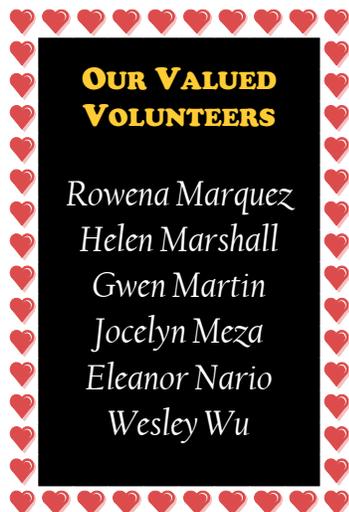
financial donation provides the dollars needed to accomplish our mission of making a difference. Your donations allow us to successfully win approval of every case we have represented and to acquire and provide medical services, food, and other essential needs of our clients during the application process. We are committed to acknowledging the difference your partnership and compassionate giving is making. Together we provide Compassion and Action!

Take the opportunity to walk with us hand-in-hand by donating today!



<http://www.compassioninaction.us/donation.html>

Thank You To Our Valued Volunteers!



Our volunteers are the heart and soul of Compassion In Action! These caring individuals work on behalf of our clients without payment for their time or service. Our volunteers have come to us in a variety of ways, yet, all of our volunteers all have passion and dedication to help those in need. Our volunteers perform a variety of tasks that contribute to the overall success of Compassion

In Action. Our volunteers answer phone calls, interview clients, provide emotional support to our clients, advocate for clients, process paperwork for Social Security, SSI Disability and other benefits, manage client records, and provide data entry skills. Every task provided by a volunteer provides support to our clients—no matter how big or small—they all help our clients regain their *dignity!*

Here's what our valued volunteers had to say about their experience volunteering for Compassion In Action!

How did you hear about Compassion In Action's volunteer opportunities?

- *I learned about Compassion while serving as Director of Glendora Welfare Association (an area non-profit). The volunteering came later when I resigned from Glendora Welfare.*
- *I first discovered Compassion through the VolunteerMatch website. This website is something I have always used to find local volunteer opportunities that I felt had a good mission and were well suited for my skills and personality.*
- *I heard about Compassion's volunteer opportunities through REI's volunteer match system. It was quick and connected me with the right people efficiently.*

What interested you about our organization?

- *What interested me was the response Compassion made to a desperate need.*
- *At first, the position itself for database entry is what drew me in. I wanted to gain as much experience as I could working with non-profit organizations and data entry work. Part of my studies in college led me toward working with*

non-profit organizations. After viewing the website and meeting Barbara, it was the organization's mission and passion to help those within the community who are in need of resources that might not be accessible to them.

- *I was interested in data entry, dealing with clients records, and that you help people with SSI benefits. I didn't know at first it was a non-profit organization but now at least I got to know a little more about the organization.*
- *Compassion's drive and commitment to help those who are in need of assistance interested me.*

How has volunteering at Compassion met your expectations of "giving back to others"?

- *Interviewing potential clients and attempting to reassure them that Compassion's intervention could help them.*
- *The work I have been able to do so far has definitely opened my eyes to the indirect work that occurs within an organization and what is important in keeping such an organization running. Compassion is a major resource center for the community and it would not be able to function efficiently without the hard work of those behind the scenes. Although I do not have direct contact with the community, I know that what we are doing here helps the advocates and Barbara's staff to better serve the community.*
- *I give back by answering phone calls if Barbara is away and take messages for missed phone calls.*
- *I have only started to volunteer, but I have already seen the results of my work.*

How would you describe your volunteer experience here?

- *It is personally satisfying to know you are meaningfully responding to human need.*
- *The experience thus far has been a great learning experience for me and I cannot wait to be able to commit more time to the organization. I am excited to be assigned different projects and discover more about how a nonprofit organization is run.*
- *I haven't had much enough volunteer experience yet but so far, I'm satisfied on what I'm learning to do.*
- *The volunteer experience here is relaxed. People work on their own pace and come in whenever they can to help out.*
- *Personal observation-Barbara Case has an instinctive knowledge which translates into logical resolution.*

To Volunteer:

info@compassioninaction.us

Dedicated Board Member—Now a Dedicated Mommy!

One of our dedicated Board Members, Kimberle Kelly, has moved on to being a dedicated mommy. All of us at Compassion In Action want to express our thanks to Kimberle for eight years of dedication to our organization as a member of the Board. Kim has been an indispensable part of our organization and we would never have grown as far and as fast as we have without her tireless effort and commitment. We also want to send our congratulations to Kim and her husband Chris on the birth of their daughter Christiane. Thanks, Kim.

All our love to you and your family!

CIA Board Members

"I AM COMPASSION IN ACTION" Key Ring and Necklace!

Display your compassion with our Compassion Puzzle Piece. Compassion assists in the restoration of our clients' lives one piece at a time. By purchasing our puzzle pieces, you help us in this process!



"I AM COMPASSION IN ACTION" Key Ring
\$10.00 each tax included



"I AM COMPASSION IN ACTION" Necklace
\$10.00 each tax included

PLACING AN ORDER IS AS EASY AS 1, 2 OR 3!

1. Call (626) 967-6800, or
2. Email us at puzzle@compassioninaction.us, or
3. Cut this out and mail to
PO Box 383, San Dimas, CA 91773

_____ "I AM COMPASSION IN ACTION" KEY RING
Number of key rings

_____ "I AM COMPASSION IN ACTION" NECKLACE
Number of necklaces

Credit card, check or money order accepted.

Shipping Costs
1-4 pieces \$2.00
5-10 pieces \$4.00
11+ pieces \$8.00

YOUR PURCHASE IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

If you are interested in preserving the "**dignity**" of our clients, join our Board! We have a need for individuals that are well-versed in social services, legal issues, and accounting practices.

Our Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Barbara Case
Office Manager/Advocate

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Dana Navarro
Vice President Human Resources

SECRETARY

Susan Williamsen
Advocate

TREASURER

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Business Owner

To Join The Board

<http://www.compassioninaction.us/info.html>



COMPASSION IN ACTION—USA
PO BOX 383, San Dimas, CA 91773

Have you ever needed help for yourself and you didn't know who to call AND no one seemed to care?
WE DO!

Phone: (626) 967-6800

Fax: (626) 967-6833

Email: info@compassionaction.us

We're on the Web!

www.compassioninaction.us

Recognizing the **dignity** of EVERY person!