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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

## Compassion Proves to be a Blessing

My name is Allison and I am a mother of seven children, currently residing in the Southern California region. For almost 37 years, my brother Richard was living on the streets of Los Angeles and battling alcoholism without the support of any family or friends.

Richard's alcoholism had taken a toll on the family and he had lost the trust and support of several family members due to his behaviors while in his altered state. He had nobody so he turned to the streets. He was alienated and kept to himself, often putting up a wall that would make communication with him nearly impossible. He was living in various areas of Los Angeles on the streets and had no connection to anyone. Over the decades our family members had frequented many of his "usual" spots in hopes of finding him so that we could check up on him. Richard's situation was distressing to the family and because we are such a close knit group, it was very hard to accept that this could happen to one of our own.

With a family history of several cancer types and years of alcoholism, Richard's vital organs began failing and he was eventually diagnosed with esophageal cancer. This news was devastating to me and I did

everything in my power to help the family come together to help Richard overcome this period of his life. My brother was sick and I felt as if there was nothing significant we could do to help him. As much as I wanted to help my brother, I was not in a position myself to be able to take him in and cover all the medical costs to help him gain back his good health. Richard was lost... I was lost. Until we met an advocate from Compassion In Action.

One day out of the blue, Richard called me and he was raving about an advocate from Compassion he had met at a local shelter. He spoke with the advocate regarding his Social Security Insurance (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) case. He was so excited about the promising new things that Compassion was offering him. He was going to start up the process of applying for SSI and SSDI once again and have an advocate to guide him through the entire process, get treatment for his current conditions, find housing, and anything else he might need while awaiting trials.

Richard had hit a road block years ago when he was denied coverage by the Social Security Administration system and every time he would regain the

**Article continues on page 2**

## Letter From Our President

Dear Friends,

2013 has arrived and we are already half-way through February. All of us at Compassion are excited about this issue of our newsletter. We are sharing inspiring client and volunteer stories, displaying a pictorial of recent Compassion events, providing you with an update on Affordable Care Act in California, and expressing our deepest gratitude to those that financially supported Compassion during 2012.



At Compassion, our phone is continuously ringing with requests from communities throughout Southern California for assistance with Social Security Disability claims, California State Disability claims, as well as CALSTRS and county disability programs. Claims continue to be approved and stabilization is brought to the lives of those we serve.

Volunteers are now providing translation services for current and prospective clients whose primary language is Spanish, Cantonese or Mandarin. Our information brochure is available in Spanish and will soon be printed in Mandarin.

Compassion continues to partner with American Health and Wellness Institute which provides psychological therapy and testing in the same building that houses Compassion's office. Availability of these services has assisted many of our clients establish the validity of their disability claims. If you have any questions about the services they provide, please call our office.

I want to extend a big "thank you" to our Board of Directors who have been spending one day a month at our office adding valuable volunteer hours to lighten our day-to-day workload.

We look forward to assisting those you refer to us from your agency, church, clinic, hospital, neighborhood and family. Our contact information can be found in this Newsletter.

During these difficult economic times, existing illnesses often worsen and immune systems weakened by stress become susceptible to illness and disease. Please remember to take time to rest and protect the health of yourself and your loved ones.

Wishing all of you great health and happiness!

Sincerely,

*Barbara*

Barbara Case, President  
Compassion In Action—USA



### Compassion Proves to be a Blessing (from page 1)

opportunity to reapply, he would be denied. The system is so difficult to maneuver through and it is almost impossible for disadvantaged individuals to jump through the hoops that are presented. Richard's advocate took him under her wing and guided him and his family through the process of getting Richard back on the right track. She physically gave him rides to the places he needed to be, she helped him find institutions for treatment of his conditions, and more. I was never once left in the dark because Richard's advocate was very informative and made sure that I knew exactly what was going on, every step of the way.

Richard's advocate gave this family something that we thought we had lost. She gave us HOPE. She gave us hope that there are still people out there that really do have great powerful hearts and are doing work to help individuals that need it most. I would like for people to understand that they should never lose hope because there will always be people like the advocates at organizations like Compassion In Action – USA out there... fighting for them every day.

Thank you Compassion for being a blessing to our family! —Allison

*Names within this article have been changed to protect the privacy of the family.*

**If you have a story you'd like to share for an upcoming newsletter, please email us at: [newsletter@compassioninaction.us](mailto:newsletter@compassioninaction.us)**

# Our Scrapbook of Igniting Hearts! Restoring Lives!



## Covina Back To School Event



## Parents Place Community Event



## Inspiring Volunteerism

### Spotlight on Compassion Volunteer Annamaria McCloskey

#### **What brought you to look into volunteering with a non-profit organization, Annamaria?**

I was laid off from work and am currently actively looking for work. In my spare time I wanted to do something that was going to help a cause, a cause that I felt strongly about. I knew that the non-profit sector would be the perfect place to find volunteering opportunities in which my time put in would make a significant impact on the organization.

#### **What sparked your interest in choosing Compassion In Action – USA as your volunteer organization of choice?**

I had heard of Compassion In Action – USA through direct contact with Barbara Case. Barbara had always mentioned how there was a shortage of volunteers in her line of work. I heard stories of the dedicated work of Compassion advocates and stories of clients that they had been able to successfully help win SSI/SSDI cases throughout the Southern California region. Compassion In Action – USA had such a strong and devoted leader that I knew I wanted to be a part of this organization.

#### **Once you began volunteering, what was it about the experience/organization that kept you interested in returning?**

What kept me returning was the fact that the work Compassion does is necessary for the community. It still amazes me how many new clients are acquired daily, through referrals and walk-ins. There are so many people out there that need advocate services such as that offered by Compassion In Action.

#### **Can you highlight one experience that has stuck with you? How did that experience change you?**

With time spent in the office, I can remember several patient intakes one of Compassion's advocates would do, and the stories were heart breaking. One woman arrived at the office and she could barely walk, yet she was coming to

Compassion for help because she had been denied benefits by the SSA. I couldn't believe it! Her story was just so tragic. I couldn't understand how this woman was denied and how she was desperately seeking help to figure out how to redo the process again, with the help of an experienced advocate. I knew then, that my volunteer work here at Compassion was worthwhile and really making a difference in this woman, and every other client's lives.

#### **Would you recommend volunteering to others and why?**

I highly recommend that people volunteer time they may have to a non-profit organization such as Compassion In Action because the services they provide are highly needed within the community. If experienced organizations such as Compassion had not existed, it would be so difficult for individuals to find any kind of help during the SSI/SSDI application process.

#### **Any additional comments you would like to make?**

If you can't volunteer for Compassion In Action, then try and volunteer for any non-profit in your area that could help those in your community.

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2012 VOLUNTEERS!

Sheila Bolanos  
Hannah Cunningham  
Stephanie Dasalla  
Brian Jones  
Elaine Liu  
Annamaria McCloskey  
Eleanor Nario  
Nancy Rawlings  
Luis Rivera  
Tina Schiltz  
Coco Wen

## What's Happening with Affordable Care?

As we approach 2014 and major changes in health insurance coverage in the United States, Compassion feels it is important for you to know how those changes are affecting Californians. Here is information on current programs for those who are currently uninsured, have pre-existing medical conditions, and wish to purchase individual health insurance.

At the dawn of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010*, California contracted with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a federally-funded high-risk pool program that would help insure those that were deemed, "uninsurable" by insurance companies and their established criteria. This program is known as the Pre-Existing Insurance Condition Plan (PCIP) operated by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB).

Additional portions of the Affordable Care Act are scheduled to go into effect in 2014. *CoveredCA* is the new "marketplace" for individuals and businesses that will allow the purchase of affordable health benefit plans that best fit their needs starting in 2014. *CoveredCA Fact Sheet* states, "All health plans purchased through *CoveredCA* must cover a range of services called Essential Health Benefits. These include services like doctor visits, hospitalization, emergency care, maternity care, pediatrics, prescriptions, medical tests, mental health care and others. Plans must cover preventive care services like mammograms and colonoscopies with no out-of-pocket cost to patients. All newly sold health plans, whether offered by the *CoveredCA* program or in the public marketplace, will be required to meet these basic requirements.

### For an overview of the CoveredCA

<http://www.coveredca.com/>

### For CoveredCA Fact Sheet

[http://www.coveredca.com/media/4654/Covered\\_California\\_About\\_fact\\_sheet\\_English.pdf](http://www.coveredca.com/media/4654/Covered_California_About_fact_sheet_English.pdf)

### For CoveredCA Frequently Asked Questions

[http://www.coveredca.com/media/4654/Covered\\_California\\_About\\_fact\\_sheet\\_English.pdf](http://www.coveredca.com/media/4654/Covered_California_About_fact_sheet_English.pdf)

### For the CoveredCA Potential Insurance Cost Calculator

CoveredCA has an online calculator that will help estimate the current costs of purchasing healthcare in 2014 and tax credit, based on income, family size, and age of youngest family member. **Please note:** Health insurance rates have not yet been finalized, so all estimated values may differ once the California insurance rates are determined and finalized. <http://www.coveredca.com/resources/calculating-the-cost/>



## YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL TO OUR SUCCESS

Please send your tax



deductible 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](http://www.compassioninaction.us)

## LATE BREAKING NEWS

As we were finalizing our newsletter the following announcement was made. "Beginning February 16, 2013, the federally-run PCIP is suspending acceptance of new enrollment applications until further notice. State-based PCIPs may continue accepting enrollment applications through March 2, and will then suspend acceptance of new enrollment applications until further notice. PCIP will continue providing coverage to more than 100,000 people currently enrolled nationwide. Based on program experience and trends since the start of the program, PCIP enrollees have serious and expensive illnesses with significant and immediate health care needs. The program has a limited amount of funding from Congress." PCIP program was given \$5 billion in July 2010 and it will only cover the 100,000 enrolled until the end of 2013.

### Helpful links

[www.pcip.gov](http://www.pcip.gov)  
[www.pcip.ca.gov](http://www.pcip.ca.gov)

See page 7 to  
purchase your  
**Compassion in Action  
Necklace or Key Ring!**



# Thank You! To Our 2012 Donors!

Thank you to those individuals who financially supported **Compassion In Action**, and took the opportunity to walk hand-in-hand with us! As a donor partner, your financial donation provided the dollars needed to accomplish our mission of helping others. Your donations allowed us to successfully win approval of the cases we represented and to acquire and provide medical services, food, and other essential needs of our clients during the application process. Your partnership and compassion made a difference! Together we provided compassion and action to help others live a life of **dignity!**

*Maxine Coleman  
Computer Specialists  
Wendy Chen Dang  
John and Tania Doran  
Debbie Eddington  
Jim and Marci Ellison  
Christine Fall  
Anna Fuentes  
Dorothy Gadlin  
Glenkirk Church  
Candace Goennier  
Colleen Good  
Richard and Dawn Heeren  
Arthur Herrera  
Jeri Holmes  
Ben and Cindy Johnson  
Judith Larrabee*



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

*Helen Marshall  
Steve and Annamaria  
McCloskey  
Lee Nattress  
Dana Navarro  
Mike and Linda Parker  
Tage and Jodi Peterson  
Nancy Rawlings  
Lisa Rodriguez  
Mary Romero  
Amanda Secola  
Denise Shultz  
Fabrienne Trebizo  
Wytske Visser  
Mary Walsh  
Debi Wilson*

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

# Order Your Compassion in Action Key Ring or Necklace Today!

## "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](mailto: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 want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practice compassion."*

—The Dalai Lama

## Our Board of Directors

*Elected July 16, 2011*

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*Barbara Case, Disability Advocate*

### DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

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*Khryste Langlais, Business Owner*

### BOARD MEMBER

*Helen Marshall, Retired Teacher*



**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@compassioninaction.us](mailto:info@compassioninaction.us)

**We're on the Web!**

[www.compassioninaction.us](http://www.compassioninaction.us)

Recognizing the **dignity** of EVERY person!