

Winter 2013  
Volume 2, Issue 5



COMPASSION IN ACTION—USA



Recognizing the *dignity* of EVERY person

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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 Has Been In Action!

Compassion In Action (Compassion) believes that seriously ill community members should not be homeless, hungry, without medical care, or near death before they can acquire life-sustaining benefits they are eligible for such as Social Security Disability, SSI Disability, Medi-Cal or Medicaid. Compassion provides skilled and compassionate advocates to assist these community members in acquiring benefits and other needed services so they may live a life of *dignity* and self-sufficiency.

Compassion dedicates, on average, 20-40 hours of work per claim to assist clients in receiving approval of their claim. The average time from representation by Compassion to approval is less than 6 months. To date, 30 client claims have been approved this year. Over \$520,000 in back pay has been received by these 30 clients, and their monthly average income has increased from \$197 per month to \$1028 per month.

Of these 30 clients, 5 were also clients of the East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless 2012-2013 Winter Shelter. Compassion provided an advocate on-site once a week for 8 weeks of the 3 month session and 5 clients sought out our assistance. These 5 clients are now receiving income, are housed, and receiving vital services to maintain stability and live in *dignity*.

In addition to the 30 clients who received approval, Compassion also represented 36 clients in filing claims or appeals. Additional individuals have requested representation and their cases are being evaluated by Compassion.

The accomplishments of Compassion in 2013 could not have been achieved without the tireless efforts of our volunteers and the generous financial contributions of our donors—see page 3 for a list of our dedicated volunteers and financial donors. Compassion is committed to continuing the action seen in 2013. Join us in our commitment by volunteering and/or donating today!



**JOIN US IN OUR COMMITMENT BY  
VOLUNTEERING OR DONATING TODAY!**

Phone: (626) 967-6800

Email: [info@compassioninaction.us](mailto:info@compassioninaction.us)

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

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



## Letter From Our President

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe, but 2014 is almost here! As illustrated in our cover article of this newsletter, as an agency, Compassion has achieved great client successes this year. In addition to our client successes in 2013, our Board membership has expanded (see page 5 for a current listing of our Board Members). Our Board Members often spend time in our office offering assistance wherever it is needed. We've also been blessed with new volunteers that hold the expertise in areas that benefit our clients and Compassion as a whole. One volunteer has an accounting background and two others are either currently active in the legal field or studying law.

To more readily meet the language needs of our clients, Compassion's brochure is now available not only in English, but also Spanish and Mandarin. We also have translators available who read and speak these languages. Compassion continues to partner with the American Health and Wellness Institute, which provides psychological therapy and testing in the same building that houses Compassion's office. These readily available services have 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 (see contact information on page 5).

As we establish goals for 2014, our priorities and focus will continue to be compassionate advocacy for those in our communities who are ill, injured, homeless or nearly homeless and require our assistance to obtain the disability benefits needed for stabilization of their lives. We look forward to assisting those you refer to us from your agency, church, clinic, hospital, neighborhood and family.

Wishing all of you blessed holidays, a safe New Year, and great health and happiness in 2014!

Sincerely,

*Barbara*

Barbara Case, President  
Compassion In Action—USA

### "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!**



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

# Thank You

**To Our Volunteers!**



**To Our Donors!**

*Lauren Becker  
Sheila Bolanos  
Stephanie Dasalla  
Brian Jones  
Annamaria McCloskey  
Arturo Pena  
Nancy Rawlings  
Mai Tran  
Kassidee Williamsen*

*Jim and Marci Ellison  
EON Resources, Inc.  
Sonia Fernandez  
Glenkirk Church  
Candace Goennier  
Stanley and Deborah Jasco  
Dana Navarro  
Mike and Linda Parker  
Nancy Rawlings  
Joann and Dennis Sanderson  
Elizabeth Sommerville  
Mary Thomson  
Dean and Debi Wilson*

Thank you to those individuals who financially supported **Compassion In Action** and those individuals that donated their time. Our volunteers and financial donors provided the resources needed to accomplish our mission of helping others. Your contribution 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!**

*We thank you from the  
bottom of our hearts!*



## Mt. SAC's Paralegal Program Adopts Compassion

The Paralegal Program from Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut will soon be lending a hand to help us around the office at Compassion. Students, who are studying to obtain their paralegal degree and to work as paralegals, are being encouraged to volunteer at Compassion by answering phones and helping with basic office tasks. "We are encouraging our students to become active at Compassion over our holiday break and look forward to starting an internship program that will supply the agency with much needed help," said Martin Ramey, Mt. SAC Professor and coordinator of the Paralegal Program.

Mt. SAC prepares students for careers working in law offices, the courts, and in non-profit organizations that serve the public interest. The school has more than 400 students who attend day and night classes in topics involving civil procedure, torts, contracts, and legal research to name a few.

While paralegals must normally work under the direction and supervision of an attorney, there is an exception for disability advocates who provide many of the services provided by Compassion. And, many firms, who have Social Security Disability practices, employ paralegals to assist in these roles. "We hope that by providing students to Compassion, the students will also get experience working around these types of cases so that they are then better able to secure jobs in the field upon graduation," added Ramey.

Mt. SAC's Paralegal Program is approved by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Paralegals, and is one of the largest in the metropolitan Los Angeles area.

## Client Testimonial—Brian's Story

"Barbara is guaranteed a spot in Heaven after all of the people she has helped," states Brian, a former school bus driver, who found his advocate and Compassion in Action through a referral source early in 2013.

Brian, who suffers from severe depression and bi-polar disorder, survived a particularly difficult childhood and adolescence. He lost both of his parents in childhood before the age of 10, one to illness, the other to suicide. Brian first lived with his grandparents and was then moved into the care of an older sibling who became physically abusive shortly after Brian started living with him. Choosing to move out rather than suffer abuse at the hand of his own brother, Brian started to support himself fully at the age of 19.

Over several years, Brian's mental health began to decline. Eventually, he lost his job of 10 years due to his struggle with his mental health. Rather than let his mental health disorders control his life, Brian chose to actively seek therapy and assistance to fight his disorders.

The driving force behind his strength was the desire to continue to be the sole provider and caregiver of his only son. As a single father, Brian has done an extraordinary job of caring for his child, who is now a 19-year old college student studying to be a psychiatric technician and hoping to work in the men's prison system.

Brian has unending praise for his advocate and Compassion in Action. When asked how Compassion has impacted his life, Brian stated, "She basically saved me." People like Brian, who fight for their own survival, work many years in their chosen profession, and raise strong families are the reason Compassion in Action is vital to our community. Through their own words, our clients share the helplessness and despair that is relieved by knowing that someone is on their side, fighting for their survival, health, and access to benefits they are so desperately in need of and should be rightfully granted.



## Our Board of Directors

**Barbara Case, President**

Compassion In Action - USA - Founder/Director

**Dana Navarro, Director of Research & Development**

Wells Fargo - Vice President Human Resources

**Rowena Marquez, Secretary & Volunteer Representative**

Property Coordinator

**Robin Lines**

Client Representative

**Deloris Crocker, Board Member**

Volunteers of America - Case Manager Homeless Services

**Brian Jones, Board Member**

Certified Court Interpreter & Spanish Instructor

**Khryste Langlais, Board Member**

BabyCakes Baking Company - Owner

**Annamaria McCloskey, Board Member**

Business Management

### 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)

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PITY & COMPASSION?

**Pity is just feeling sorry for someone.  
Compassion is doing something about it!  
And, that's what we are here to do...  
Compassion In Action!**



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!