



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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Our lives are complex sagas with many plot twists, but they all must end. As anyone who has turned the final page of an engaging novel knows, the end matters. It matters deeply. No wonder, then, that so many of us want to be able to comfortably and safely end our own lives, on our own terms, without having to turn to professionals of one sort or another who determine if our personal values are worthy by their standards, or if our assessment of our life's remaining quality can be measured by their yardstick – or if our reasoning makes sense to them.

~Lowrey Brown, FEN Client Services Director

”

With great pride and profound gratitude, we present to you our 2022-23 Annual Report. This report is a testament to the remarkable journey of empowerment and transformation that we have embarked upon together. It is a celebration of the collective efforts, unwavering dedication, and the profound impact you have made on the lives of countless individuals and communities through your support of Final Exit Network. We couldn't have done it without you!

From the very beginning, FEN has been driven by a clear and unwavering belief: that mentally competent adults who suffer from a terminal illness, intractable physical pain, chronic or progressive physical disabilities, or who face loss of autonomy and selfhood through dementia have a basic human right to choose to end their lives when they judge their quality of life to be unacceptable.

Guided by this vision, we have worked tirelessly to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the right to die movement, and committed to providing resources and education to those who seek information and assistance.

Over the past year, we have achieved significant milestones that will allow us to best serve you for years to come. In this annual report, you will find detailed information about our financial performance, program outcomes, and the impact of your support.

Some of the key highlights include:

- **Innovative and Informative Programming** - Responding to member inquiries, we have created several new educational resources and programs that address your questions. From monthly programs to interactive workshops, we listened to your requests and responded to provide quality, interactive opportunities for dialogue and education.
- **Addressing Transparency and Accountability** - We understand the importance of transparency in every aspect of our operations. As stewards of your trust and contributions, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of accountability.

- **Groundbreaking Research Initiatives** - Over this past fiscal year, Final Exit Network has sponsored pioneering research on death and dying.

As we reflect on our achievements, we also look ahead with optimism and determination. The challenges we face may be great, but so is our resolve to create lasting change. We remain steadfast in our commitment to our vision: that any competent person unbearably suffering an intractable medical condition has the option to die legally and peacefully.

We invite you to continue this transformative journey with us. Your involvement, whether through donations, volunteering, or advocating for our cause, makes an immense difference.

Thank you for being an essential part of our mission. Please explore this annual report to learn more about your impact on the right to die movement through your support of FEN.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Brian Ruder
President



Mary Ewert
Executive Director

OUR MISSION

To educate qualified individuals in practical, peaceful ways to end their lives, offer a compassionate bedside presence, and defend their right to choose.

OUR VISION

That any competent person unbearably suffering an intractable medical condition has the option to die legally and peacefully.

OUR PRINCIPLES

A mentally competent person with intolerable suffering or pain has the right to end their life, choosing the timing and persons present, and should be free of any restrictions by the law, clergy, medical profession, friends or relatives.

We do not encourage anyone to end their life and are opposed to anyone encouraging anyone to end their life.

We do not provide the means for self-deliverance and we do not assist in self-deliverance. We refer individuals who are reactive or suicidal to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 988.

We support research for safe, inexpensive medications or other safe, certain and painless methods that would allow for a peaceful self-deliverance.

We will vigorously defend our beliefs and practices in a court of law when necessary.

74%

OF AMERICANS

SUPPORT

A PERSON'S RIGHT TO DIE

2022 GALLUP POLL

2023-2024 PROGRAM GOALS

All goals ultimately support FEN's core objective: to educate about and support end of life choices. It's why we exist and why we attract dedicated supporters.

Forge Deeper Collaborations with Right to Die Organizations.

As FEN continues to grow and develop, the organization will seek to collaborate with other national and international right to die organizations to best serve our members and clients. Information on these programs can be found at www.finalexitnetwork.org.

Augment and Diversify Final Exit Network's Comprehensive Communications Plan.

Over the past 12 months, FEN has established a comprehensive, multi-channel communications plan. Using this strategy, FEN will amplify its messaging to fulfill our mission and vision, attract new members and donors, and maintain quality opportunities for engagement with current members, clients, and donors.

Elevate the Standing of FEN's Thought Leadership Experts.

As the only right to die organization of its kind in the United States, FEN recognizes the unique opportunity to utilize our network of experts to share our mission and vision. This year, FEN will seek to expand our presence as speakers-of-note at national and international conferences and continue to provide op-eds for major publications and news outlets.

Strategically Expand Staffing Resources to Deliver Exceptional Programs and Services.

FEN has long thrived with a combination of dedicated volunteers and key staff. As programs and resources continue to expand, it is critical that FEN increase staffing resources to ensure continued excellence in program and service provision. Relationship management, communications, and fundraising will be key areas of growth.



2,364

Active Final Exit
Network Members

BELIEVE THAT THE RIGHT TO A DEATH WITH DIGNITY IS WORTH SUPPORTING.

We joined Final Exit Network and even applied for...(the) Exit Guide (Program). I was astounded that two caring strangers would come to us and give us detailed information about non-violently ending one's life, without any expectation or need for him to ever actually do so.

~Beverly T.

828

Donors

*gave a
total of*

\$2,172,567.00

in Fiscal Year 2023
(July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

thank you



Your Support Gives People the Ultimate Gift: Control Over their Lives and Peace of Mind

"I'm so grateful to FEN for giving me choices, for not leaving me at the mercy of the hospital or the docs or people who have no right to be in the middle of my life." ~Carole C.

After fighting cancer four times, Carole applied to and was accepted into the FEN program. She peacefully concluded her well-lived life in October of 2021. Before her death, she noted, "My remaining time will be lighter, knowing that I remain in control."

2022-23 AT-A-GLANCE

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| 35K Users sought information at www.finalexitnetwork.org | 115K Good Death Society blog readership to-date | 2,352 People attended Speakers Bureau presentations | 1,100+ Calls were fielded by FEN's Coordinators |
|---|--|--|--|

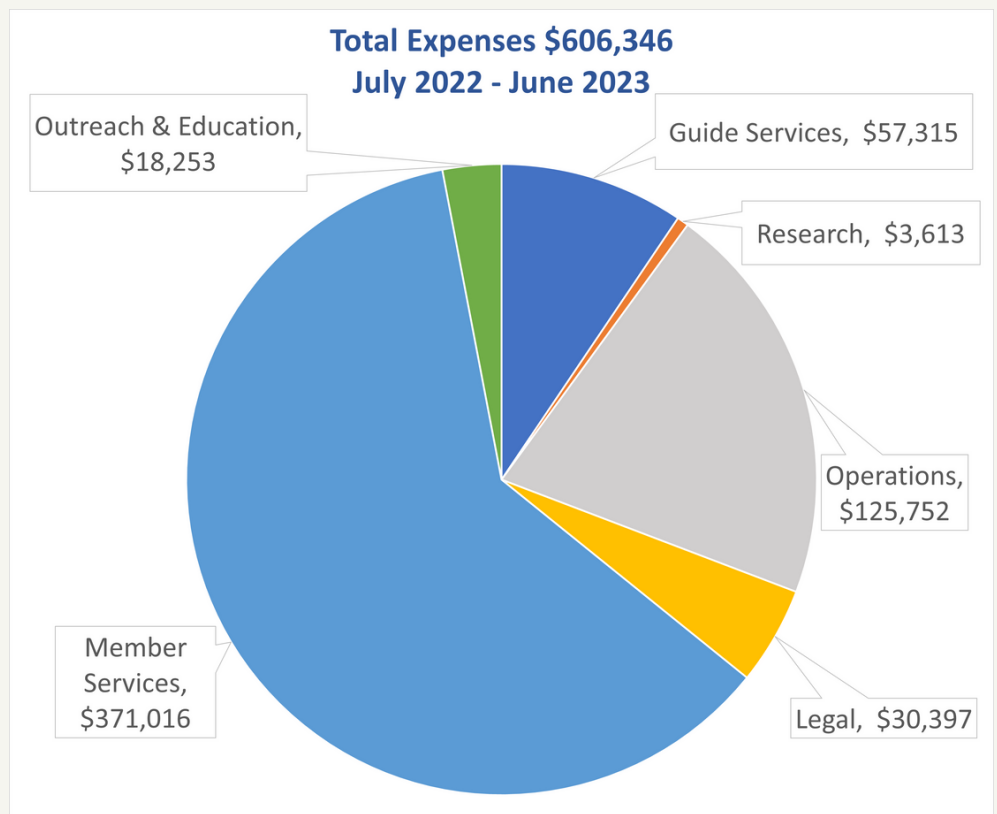
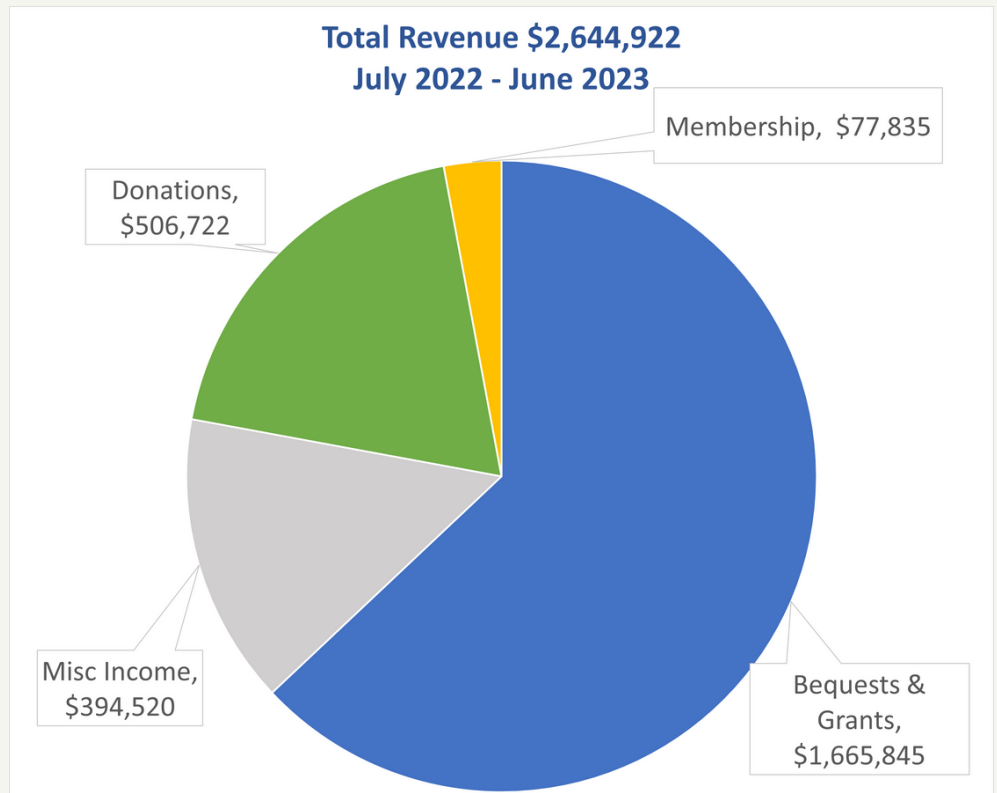
| NEW PROJECTS | DETAILS | OUTCOME |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Chosen Death Forum | Members aged 18+ are welcome to attend this monthly forum to share ideas, feelings, and concerns regarding legal end of life choices. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration fills each month. • Increased the number of trained facilitators to reach more people. |
| Digital Outreach | FEN focused on creating worthwhile, informative, and engaging content through digital channels and publications. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn users each doubled audiences in a 12- month period. • Website revamp eased navigation. • Adopted interactive database to better steward members and donors. |
| Workshops for Members 50+ | Created in-person workshops nationally to address specific questions about choice in dying preparation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held workshops in OR, IL, WA, and CA to-date. • Plans in place to provide the workshop in several other cities throughout the country. |
| Research | FEN sponsored two groundbreaking research studies on trends and attitudes about right to die issues. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FEN's Mary Ewert presented findings at the World Federation of RTD Societies' International Conference last November. • The journal <i>Mortality</i> published FEN's research on characteristics of adults faced with intractable suffering who choose to end their lives. |

Highlights:

- FEN had its first external audit completed in 2022, with results reflecting Final Exit Network's recordkeeping accuracy and commitment to financial transparency.
- FEN achieved Platinum Level status from Candid/GuideStar, which recognizes a nonprofit's commitment to transparency. This is the highest level charities can attain.
- Charity Navigator rated Final Exit Network as a charity to which one can "give with confidence."
- FEN's Investment Account totaled \$4,430,139 as of 6/30/2023. These funds, raised through individual gifts, bequests and grants, support all of FEN's programs.

FINANCIALS

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023



FEN VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Did You Know?

73 dedicated volunteers are at the heart of all that FEN accomplishes. Some of the roles that volunteers perform include:

- Exit Guides
- Regional Coordinators
- Board Members
- Speakers Bureau members
- Authors and Editors
- Facilitators

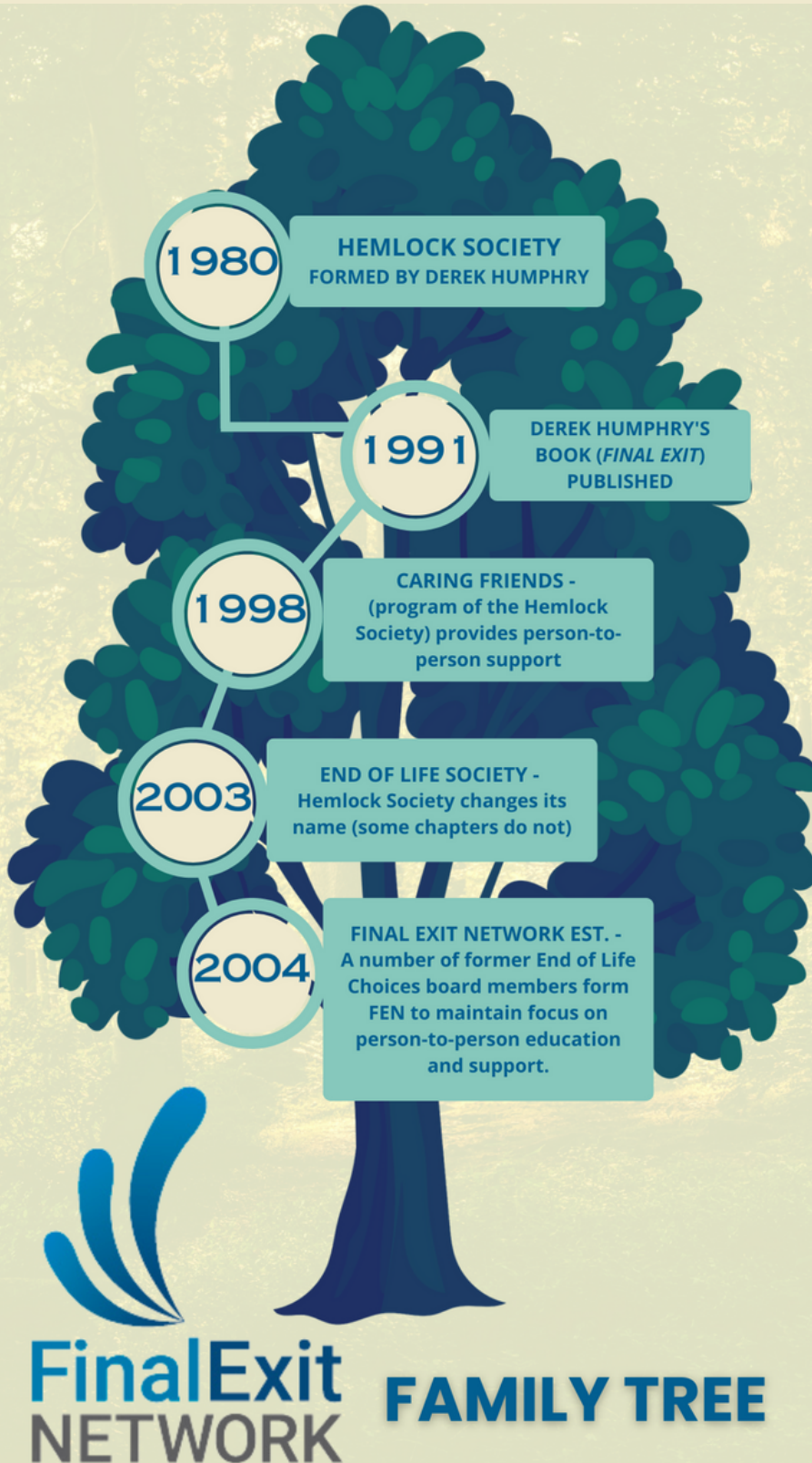
Thank you to this amazing network of caring, trained volunteers who support mentally competent adults as they navigate their end of life journey.

“ Three adult children gather near, touch and hold and whisper assurances to a man who has lost his willingness to fight a battle he cannot win. Heaven knows he has suffered enough. Raw reality of his losses banishes dreams and denial; he will die, and he wishes to die now. The Exit Guides provide a compassionate presence, set an example, and are ready to offer a comment if the patient appears likely to make a mistake in the rhythm of his much-desired dance of death. ~ Dr. Jerry M. ”

“ I barely knew about the organization, but was mightily impressed with the expertise and patience of the guides. I immediately came home and joined FEN. ~Jim V. ”

“ The essential work that you and your team have undertaken to give people an opportunity for a dignified and graceful exit from ruthless indignities and medical perils at the end of life was an incredible gift to our family and friends. ~Family member. ”

LOOKING AHEAD: FEN CELEBRATES ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY



When FEN began in 2004, it was focused on making sure that individuals were able to get 1:1 education and support on end of life choices.

Since then, it has grown to help thousands of people each year learn about their right to die options.

In recognition of this amazing anniversary, FEN is publishing the book *There at the End: Voices from the Final Exit Network*. This collection of inspirational, true, personal stories explores the journeys of FEN clients and their loved ones, and the volunteers who help navigate clients' right to die choice. Poignant and painful, heartwarming and heartbreaking, these stories remind us that the right to control one's exit is powerful and affirming, and that comfort, support, and love at end-of-life are unique gifts for all present.

Stay tuned for more information!

FINAL EXIT NETWORK
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2022-23 Final Exit Network Board of Directors

Brian Ruder, President
Ronald Liesemer, Vice President
Wendell Stephenson, Treasurer
Randee Laikind
Janis Landis
Jay Schamberg
Gary Wederspahn
Anita Winsor

Final Exit Network Staff

Mary Ewert, Executive Director
Lowrey Brown, Client Services Director
Heike Sanford, Member Services Coordinator

Final Exit Network

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Platinum
Transparency
2023

Candid.

WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT