



Annual report 2013

Dear members of our association,

I am happy to present today the second annual report of our lifecircle association and of the associated Eternal Spirit foundation.

During the past year, the following small changes have taken place:

The company Nicolas Brodard, Brodard Treuhand AG Ettingen had to resign as auditor both for the association and the foundation. Mr. Nicolas Brodard will retire this year, and his son, who will continue with the trust company, does not have the additional training for the auditing of foundations. We regret this situation and want to thank Mr. Nicolas Brodard for his invaluable and competent advice especially during the creation of the foundation.

The new auditor will be Mr. Reto Straumann, fiduciary in Therwil. Mr. Straumann already audits several foundations and thus has a very sound knowledge of foundations, just like Mr. Brodard. We want to thank Mr. Straumann for his pleasant cooperation and the competent advice.

The amount of work for the association as well as for the requests for assisted voluntary death have increased significantly over the past few months. Initially the association and the foundation could not afford a secretary for financial reasons, so I managed the administration together with our unfailing volunteer accountant Markus Lüthi, without a secretary. This meant a lot of work at night and during weekends to register members, send membership cards and handle the members' concerns. On this occasion I want to thank M. Lüthi for his persistent support.

With increasing memberships and several payments we received for assisted voluntary deaths of Swiss and foreign members, the financial situation has improved so that the foundation can now pay salaries. However, it is not that easy to find persons who want to get involved with end-of-life issues. Fortunately, in the fall of 2013 we added Mrs. Sophie Haesen to our team. Mrs. Haesen and Mr. Habegger, our voluntary death attendant, are



trained in all activities that concern contacts with and advice for our members and applications for voluntary death. Now I can directly transmit many requests to Sophie Haesen and Ruedi Habegger, which is a big relief for me.

Some examples for our work over the last 12 months:

In the previous report, I mentioned a 95-year old gentleman whom I brought home from the hospital to die and who recovered at home, contrary to expectations. He is still alive, enjoys another spring time and is lovingly looked after, at home, day and night by a Lithuanian lady. He can walk with a walking frame, talks again, eats on his own and enjoys life very much.

We have received from members an electric wheelchair, two manual wheelchairs and a walking frame. We loan these aids out to members free of charge. Right now, the walking frame and a manual wheelchair are borrowed. I ask our members to inform us if they want to borrow a mobility-improving aid. Over time, we want to create a possibility on our web site to offer aids or also services to increase quality of life.

Again and again I am astonished how few physicians respect the death wish of discriminating individuals. Physicians and especially psychiatrists seem to assess persons with a death wish very quickly as depressive and thus unable to reason. I received a phone call from a family member of a 96-year old lady who had become a case for nursing care after a heart attack, with severe respiratory distress at the slightest exertion. When she wanted to die, the hospital physician called the hospital psychiatrist who evaluated her as depressive and thus unable to reason. Only through the family member who informed me was it possible for us to get the lady, who was of sound mind, out of the hospital (after a difficult talk with the hospital psychiatrist) and to fulfil her ardent desire for a voluntary assisted death. I ask all members to inform us if their wish or their living will is not being respected. It is only if we are informed that we can become active. It is a very big advantage that I am a physician and have more influence than someone who is not from the medical profession. Also, with our board member Mr. Galln, we have a lawyer who will defend any nonobservance of a patient's wish.

During the past months, we also worked in favor of the legalization of assisted voluntary death in other countries. In June 2013, a congress of European voluntary death associations took place. In May and December 2013, I wrote letters to the French president François Hollande. I drew his attention to terrible drawbacks in his country and



asked him not to forget his election promise to legalize assisted dying. In February 2014 I gave a speech in Sarlat. France has never before been so close to legalizing assisted dying. We want to help them to reach this goal so that foreigners do not have to travel to Switzerland anymore in order to die in peace and safety. You can read my letters to the French president and his answers on our website (“News”).

I am happy to be president of lifecircle and thank you very much for trusting our organisation.

Dr. med. Erika Preisig, president of lifecircle / Eternal Spirit