



Newsletter 09/2012

Dear members of **Lifecircle**

I would like to give you some information about what has happened since the association **Lifecircle** has been founded.

Having solved a lot of little problems usually met when a new association is founded, we are now able to send you the membership card. Please, always carry it with you! Should you have an accident or get seriously ill, every doctor can download – via Internet - and see your living will by entering your personal codes on your membership card. *This can be very important to make doctors respect your self-determination.*

In the meantime we have been able to welcome many members in the community of **Lifecircle**. We are very grateful for the confidence you are showing towards our association. Some members have applied for an assisted dying or are in contact with us because of their wish to die. We have been able to stop the fear of a slow death with a lot of suffering for some members by telling them that an assisted dying is possible in their case, should their life quality get unbearable. Thanks to this confidence, they can go on accepting their illness a bit further.

We have been offered a very nice small room, where the assisted dying can take place and which we have rented and renovated. The room is located in the region of the city of Basel where there are several hotels of different categories. This is very suitable for our members from abroad and their relatives. We also have informed all the world Right-to-Die Societies about



the fact, that we are ready to give information about self-determination and to offer assisted dying to Swiss people as well as to foreigners. In addition, we have gained further members thanks to people who told their friends about their good experiences with **Lifecircle**, what stands for a perfect trust in our organization. We appreciate this very much and thank everybody for their confidence in **Lifecircle**.

I would like to evoke two examples of how people can be helped at the end of their life. These two examples stand for the careful and human work of **Lifecircle**, and how we want to give every person his or her own way to end their life.

“A lady was suffering from a carcinoma of the liver. Incurable and spread everywhere, a terminal suffering. Her partner told her about **Lifecircle** and the possibility of an assisted dying, he didn't want her to suffer until the end. After our first meeting at her home, she became so fond of **Lifecircle**, that she accepted me as her private doctor. I supported her with regular home visits and she knew that she could call me at any time in case of problems, even have an assisted dying within a few days. So spring and summer went. We were talking about assisted dying and palliative care many times. And we were talking again and again about the fact that it is extremely difficult to find the right way to go into eternity.

I always told her, she should not search, but try to listen to her inner feelings, that she would all of a sudden know, which way was the right one for her.

She took her time, a lot of time, enjoyed many days with her children. And, in the end, she went to sleep for ever quietly, with the help of very little morphine to ease her breathing problems. She was able to accept a natural death, knowing that she could go into an assisted dying any time if her suffering got unbearable. I think that this gave her the safety and peace she needed to let go and die. “



“A man was suffering from a metastasis carcinoma of the prostate. He had decided weeks ago to go into an assisted dying if he was getting any worse. For this man it was impossible to lie in bed in a vegetating state and be nursed like a baby. His oncologist had promised him an assisted dying. But the oncologist was on holidays when the man got worse very quickly, his stage was turning into a urgency. He begged me to replace his oncologist and I was willing to do so. The wish of this man was fulfilled, his wish to end his unbearable suffering in the presence of all his loved ones, with the help of an assisted dying. This was for the whole family and for me a very wonderful, emotional happening with a incredibly high amount of thankfulness. I was surprised myself about the trust in me and the open-mindedness towards me from the family members, although we knew each other only since a few days.”

I have to admit that these two persons have been living in Switzerland. Both would not have been able to wait and carry their destiny so long, if they would have had to travel, to go into an assisted dying, because this is not legal in the country where they live. This is why we all have to stand up and fight for the right of every person in every country to die the way each person wants, not only with palliative care, but also with an assisted dying.

With these two destinies of two wonderful people I would like to say thank you all our members for the patience at the beginning of our organization, and for all the faith you have shown towards **Lifecircle**. I also would like to thank you for the donations that have been already made towards **Lifecircle/Eternal Spirit**.

Best wishes and kind regards Erika Preisig