Dear Friends,

A personal thanks to everyone listed on the 2012 OHSU Center for Ethics Donor Honor Roll.

You have proven that profound change can be achieved. With your support, we have attained a national reputation and attracted outstanding candidates for our two new endowed chairs. A strong leadership team enables the Center to take on new challenges. We just hired a highly qualified Executive Director for the growing national POLST Program.

The Program in Compassionate Communication supports cutting-edge innovation in the care of those with advanced illness. We are expanding our impact in other areas such as conflict of interest and stewardship.

We are committed to achieving the greatest possible impact for each dollar you have generously given the Center.

With heartfelt thanks,

Susan W. Tolle, MD
Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair
Director, Center for Ethics in Health Care

New Endowment: Program in Compassionate Communication

A long-time friend of the Center for Ethics, Evona Brim, previously provided the lead gift for the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care in 2006. Now she has once again come forward with the first gift toward the goal of building a permanent endowment to support the Center’s new Program in Compassionate Communication. As a parish nurse, she sees first-hand the struggles and shortcomings in health care facing those with serious illness. She hopes others will join her in building this important new endowment fund. A grant from The Collins Foundation is laying the ground work for a project to launch the Program in Compassionate Communication. On January 25, 2013, Ira Byock, MD, author and national leader in palliative care, visited OHSU to provide consultation to the team of core faculty, headed by Dr. David Barnard, responsible for developing curriculum to train Master Educators in Compassionate Communication.

New Developments with the POLST Program

In just three years, over 100,000 Oregonians have entered their POLST forms into the Oregon POLST Registry. In December, we launched a new website for the Oregon POLST Program: www.orpolst.org. On this site, you can view recent developments, retrieve a copy of the POLST form, and access a new lay booklet which serves as a guide to the Oregon POLST Program, entitled “Facing Serious Illness: Make Your Wishes Known to your Health Care Professional.” In recent months, POLST has been featured in the New York Times, USA Today, and Money Magazine. With the recent retirement of Margaret Carley, the Center has hired Amy Vandenbroucke, JD to assume the position of Executive Director of the POLST Program. She joins the Center with an extensive background in health care law, and recently completed a two-year fellowship in Interprofessional Health Care Ethics. With this change in POLST leadership, and a recent challenge gift from Bill and Karen Early, and matching donors, the Center is positioned to move the POLST Program forward; see more details in the next newsletter.

Annual Kinsman Ethics Conference to Address Responsibility

The Kinsman Conference Planning Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Lynn Jansen, will focus their topic for the Spring 2013 conference on public health ethics: “Health and Well-being: Who is Responsible?” This year’s conference, to be held in Ashland, OR, April 11 & 12, 2013 will feature nationally renowned keynote speaker, Dr. Steve Schroeder. Topics range from the social determinants of health to personal responsibility. For more information: jeppesem@ohsu.edu.