Dear Friends,

A sincere thanks to each person who is listed on the 2011 OHSU Center for Ethics in Health Care Donor Honor Roll. Through your support, we have proven that profound change is possible. We have achieved a national reputation for improving end of life care, and we will be able to do even more once we fill the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care.

Under the leadership of Lynn A. Jansen, PhD, the Madeline Brill Nelson Chair in Ethics Education, we are developing a new interprofessional curriculum in ethics and professionalism for dentists, nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and physician assistants. This innovative education will promote more effective compassionate care for patients while improving team collaboration.

We are most grateful for your gifts. We are committed to achieving the greatest possible impact for each dollar you have given to the Center.

With heartfelt thanks,

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

POLST National Conference Sells Out
The first national POLST conference will be held on Feb 16th in San Diego. State POLST leaders from across the country will gather to share experiences, challenges and innovations. Registration is higher than projected exceeding the capacity of the hotel. Among the materials we will be sharing with other states is our new 12-minute educational video for health care professionals called “POLST in Action in Oregon.” Maine and several other states plan to adapt our video for use in their own programs of statewide education.

Oregon’s POLST Registry featured in JAMA
The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) published data from the first year of operation of the Oregon POLST Registry. Our findings surprised the medical community. What people want is not black and white, not all or nothing. Nearly everyone with a POLST form in the Registry wanted some treatments and not others. People with advanced illnesses often want to go to the hospital for basic medical treatments but wish to avoid intensive care. With the advent of the Registry the valuable information on POLST orders are more readily available. The OHSU Emergency Communications Center has received over 1,000 calls looking for a POLST form in a time of crisis from the POLST Registry.

Next Steps in Implementing the Miles J. Edwards Chair in Professionalism and Comfort Care
The much anticipated selection of this important Chair position is progressing rapidly, and we hope to be able to announce this inaugural appointment in the Center’s next newsletter. We are deeply grateful to each and every one of the 322 individual donors whose gifts have made the Edwards Chair a reality. While waiting to fill this Chair position, two important programs relating to Professionalism and Comfort Care continue to be offered by the Center: the City Wide Palliative Care Conferences and the Living with Life Threatening Illness classes. We are grateful for the many health care professional volunteers that give generously of their time, enabling us to launch these new programs which have provided a foundation for further growth.

Kinsman Conference to Address Stewardship
The Center for Ethics in Health Care is partnering with Patra Behary, MD and the faculty at Kaiser-Permanente Northwest to co-host the 22nd Annual Kinsman Conference, which will take place in Portland, Oregon on April 19 and 20, 2012. The title of this year’s conference is “Stewardship in the Age of Autonomy: Can We Ever Say No?” The conference will feature workshops and lectures from many of the most distinguished ethicists and health care policy experts in Oregon, including Oregon Health & Science University’s own Richard Deyo, MD, MPH, who will deliver the opening keynote address titled “A Billion Here, A Billion There: Stumbling into a Duty of Stewardship.” For more information about conference registration, please contact Margaret Jeppesen at 503-494-4436 or jeppesem@ohsu.edu.

Susan W. Tolle, MD
Cornelia Hayes Stevens Chair
Director, Center for Ethics in Health Care
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The following friends have set up a Charitable Remainder Trust or have told us that they have included the Center in their estate plans:

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2011 Center for Ethics in Health Care, Steering Committee with new member Andy Davis joining in 2012. Pictured from L-R, Lisa Andrus-Rivera, Susan Tolle, Bill Early, Mary Oldshue, Barbara Durkheimer, Ann Barden, Bill Whitsell and Robert Shook
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The Miles J. Edwards Chair has reached an endowment goal of $2.5 million.

We have made every effort to list everyone who has given during 2011 according to preference and accuracy. We deeply regret any omissions we may have made. If we have made any errors, or if you would prefer to be recognized differently, please inform the Center for Ethics in Health Care at ethics@ohsu.edu or 503-494-4466. We welcome corrections so that we can better reflect your wishes in future publications.

For additional information about gift planning to the Center for Ethics in Health Care, please email Ann Barden at bardena@ohsu.edu or call 503-412-6355.