
AGING WITH DIGNITY

500,000 WISHES CAMPAIGN CALL TO ACTION:

ENABLE 500,000 ADULTS TO MAKE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS BEFORE A SERIOUS ILLNESS – SO THEY RECEIVE THE DIGNIFIED CARE THEY WANT AND DESERVE

Initiative to provide 500,000 newly translated *Five Wishes* advance directives and promote awareness in culturally diverse communities in the next 12 months

All people who are seriously ill should receive quality, dignified care that honors their personal preferences, values, and beliefs. End-of-life decision-making must be accessible for all individuals regardless of their age, language, culture or resources. Millions of people in our country do not take advantage of the resources available to them to help them make healthcare decisions and how to communicate those choices to caregivers and family members. It is especially important that people from diverse cultural backgrounds have resources available to make these decisions in their own language.

We the undersigned, working closely with Aging with Dignity, the Administration on Aging and United Health Foundation and the American Hospital Association, pledge to provide information about the importance of making one's final wishes known. We pledge to reach 500,000 seniors, people with disabilities, their caregivers, health care providers and other interested partners, providing them with copies of the *Five Wishes* advance directive in 20 languages: *Albanian, Arabic, Bengali, Chinese traditional, Chinese simplified, Croatian, French, Gujarati, Haitian Creole, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Urdu, and Vietnamese*.

Five Wishes is a living will that helps seriously ill individuals make important end-of-life-care decisions that address their medical, personal, emotional and spiritual needs. *Five Wishes* helps answer the following questions:

- ? Who will make decisions for you when you can't make them yourself?
- ? What kind of medical treatment do you want or not want?
- ? How comfortable would you like to be?
- ? How do you want people to treat you?
- ? What do you want your loved ones to know?

Five Wishes currently meets the legal requirements for an advance directive in 40 states. In the remaining 10 states and other parts of the world, *Five Wishes* can be used as a valuable tool for making decisions and communicating preferences to family members and health care providers. We believe that individuals should be able to express their health care preferences in words that are meaningful and understandable to them, and are hopeful that *Five Wishes* will soon be recognized as a legally valid advance directive in all states.

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Together, we embark on the *500,000 Wishes* Campaign, and commit to reaching out to the unique individuals who will benefit from these translated versions of *Five Wishes*, communicating their availability, and facilitating access to them. By providing *Five Wishes* in many languages, in addition to the original English version, we will provide thousands of individuals who do not speak English the ability to work through their end-of-life decision-making and make their wishes known to family and caregivers.

Moving forward, we welcome others to join us in this important endeavor.

Respectfully submitted this day, June 7, 2007,

Aging with Dignity

U.S. Administration on Aging

United Health Foundation

UnitedHealth Group

The American Hospital Association

The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

B’Nai B’Rith International

Allied Physicians IPA

American Society of Directors of Volunteer Services

Asociación Nacional Pro Personas Mayores (ANPPM)

The Arab-American Family Support Center

Hamilton Madison House

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

The National Association of Thrift Savings Plan Participants

The National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.

National Council on Aging

National Hispanic Council on Aging

The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization

OWL

Society for Healthcare Consumer Advocacy

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