

Dear Friends,

December 2008

We have had a remarkable year, most notably because of our fabulous 10th Anniversary Celebration which took place in March with great success. About 70 participants attended from all over the country, and they very clearly made known how important this work is to them and their communities. Mark Harris, author of the acclaimed *Grave Matters*, traveled from Pennsylvania to be our keynote speaker. (He called me a revolutionary! I was comforted since, as they say, “Well-behaved woman rarely make history!”) Stories of home funeral care were told by a variety of participants: people who, after attending Crossings’ workshops, had founded Crossings support groups of their own in far-flung parts of the country; funeral directors who are friends of our work; people who are working hard to open “green burial” sites; and folks who had used our resources to guide them in funerals for their own loved ones. We were all strengthened by Crossings’ enduring mission, by how many were doing this work and where and how they were doing it. We all headed for home with even greater enthusiasm for the future of home funeral care. Over the course of the weekend, we had transformed ourselves from many individuals working from small centers of home death care in 15 states into a full blown movement, a rich network of collaborators, committed to changing the way our culture handles its own mortality!

Over the past year or two our commitment to spreading the work of home funeral education as widely as possible has grown even deeper. While we continue to teach workshops and assist directly with individual families in need of our support, we have sought new ways to encourage community groups to work together to serve their own communities’ needs. To that end, we have recently decided that our newly revised Resource Guide, which we had previously sold, should be made available for free on line, and for the cost of publication in hard copy. In order to shift our focus toward a more widely accessible approach, we need more than ever to ask for your support.

We can only afford to forgo the operating funds which the Resource Guide has provided, if we can replace them with increased support from donations. We believe that providing our Resource Guide for free is the right thing to do, allowing people of all economic backgrounds access to the practical, legal, and spiritual wisdom we have gained through 10 years of home funeral work. In these economic times, this access is more important than ever. Please consider making a generous donation this year in support of freeing the Resource Guide to find as many readers as possible.

We are pleased to say that it is even easier to give tax-deductible gifts to Crossings on our website with your credit card through Paypal. Our small grassroots efforts have achieved much with your help, and we will continue to do so as we go forward together into this New Year filled with much promise.

With deepest gratitude for all that you do,