



## CDCAN REPORT

**#035-2010 – FEBRUARY 9, 2010 - EARLY TUESDAY**  
**CALIFORNIA DISABILITY COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK**  
*ADVOCACY WITHOUT BORDERS: ONE COMMUNITY –*  
*ACCOUNTABILITY WITH ACTION*

*California Disability Community Action Network Disability Rights News goes out to over 50,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors, traumatic brain & other injuries, veterans with disabilities and mental health needs, their families, workers, community organizations, including those in Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, African American communities, policy makers and others across California.*

*To reply to this report write: MARTY OMOTO at [martyomoto@rcjp.com](mailto:martyomoto@rcjp.com) WEBSITE: [www.cdcan.us](http://www.cdcan.us) TWITTER: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com) - 'MartyOmoto*

**REMEMBERING THAT EVERY LIFE MATTERS:**

**PLEASE REMEMBER & HELP THE PEOPLE OF HAITI**

**American Red Cross: 1-800-HELP NOW (1-800-435-7669) [redcross.org](http://redcross.org)**

**UNICEF: 1-800-4UNICEF (1-800-486-4233) [unicefusa.org](http://unicefusa.org)**

### **Remembering Lives That Matter:**

**DISABILITY & SENIOR ADVOCATE MAGGIE “DEE” DOWLING  
SLOWLY RECOVERING FROM MAJOR CANCER SURGERY**

**MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> EVENT IN SACRAMENTO HONORING LONG TIME  
SENIOR ADVOCATE BILL POWERS**



SACRAMENTO, CALIF (CDCAN) [Updated 02/09/2010 02:35 AM (Pacific Time)] - Longtime respected disability and senior rights advocate Maggie “Dee” Dowling is slowly recovering at home, after major surgery last November to remove a life threatening cancerous tumor. After returning home in December, her condition was again critical due to serious complications that required last month a 10 day return to the hospital.

Dowling [pictured left in November after her surgery, with close friend Lynn Carman – photo by Marty Omoto] – known simply as “Maggie Dee” across the state, is back at home, but is facing a long and difficult road to recovery. Her condition is considered “stable” but still serious. Friends and others who want to send cards, letters or messages of support to her can send to her home at:

**Maggie “Dee” Dowling**  
**426 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Pittsburg, CA 94565**

Due to her condition she is still not able to use her computer and hasn't been able to access her email since last November.

Maggie “Dee” who is a member also of the Gray Panthers, ADAPT and other disability advocacy groups, said she was having difficulty eating and said that she has lost over 50 pounds and continues to lose weight. She cut her hair (as pictured in the photo) before her surgery in order to make it easier to care for her in the hospital.

### **Hosted Radio Show & Longtime Presence At Disability and Senior Rights Hearings and Meetings**

Maggie “Dee” who lives in Pittsburg, California is helped by several In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) workers, and until her surgery last fall, hosted a San Francisco University based radio show on disability issues. She has been a longtime advocate on a wide range of disability, senior and mental health rights, and low income family issues for decades.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, just weeks before her surgery, Dowling provided through a special setup by phone, an emotional and compelling testimony to the Assembly Budget Committee on the problems and fears she faced in the implementation of recent changes to the In-Home Supportive Services program impacting her workers (providers).

She has also been a frequent presence and voice at nearly every Olmstead Advisory Committee meeting since the committee was formed in 2005, a frequent guest and commentator at numerous CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings and other disability and senior related events and meetings statewide and locally in the bay area on issues including healthcare, Medi-Cal, accessible and affordable housing, transportation, IHSS, SSI/SSP, end of life and other issues.



### **MARCH 18<sup>th</sup> EVENT WILL HONOR LONGTIME SENIOR ADVOCATE BILL POWERS**

Meanwhile another widely respected senior and disability advocate, Bill Powers of Sacramento [pictured left in September 2009 photo, courtesy of CARA], who last spring announced his withdrawal from day to day advocacy work, due to personal circumstances, will be the focus of an event honoring and paying tribute to his life and work, on March 18<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, at the Unitarian Universalist Society, at 2425 Sierra Blvd in Sacramento.

The event, hosted by the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), which Powers was a founding board member, will honor him, according to CARA, for his work “as a volunteer lobbyist on behalf of seniors, people with disabilities, renters, workers, consumers, and low income people. “

Joan B. Lee, the respected and beloved senior advocate who died in August 2008, said before her passing that Bill Powers was her “mentor” who gave her continued “priceless inspiration and guidance” over the many years.

### **How To Attend Event Honoring Powers**

Persons interested in attending this event honoring Bill Powers can do so by:

- Tickets to event - buy a ticket to the event – at \$25 each or 10 tickers for \$200
- Memory Book – Persons or organizations can purchase a page or part of a page in the “Memory Book” that will be presented to Powers. The page or portion of a page purchased can include sharing a story, picture, newsclip, poem, etc remembering Powers’ work and life). Full pages are \$500 (include 5 tickets to the event), ½ pages are \$300 (3 tickets), ¼ pages are \$200 (2 tickets) and 1/8 pages are \$100 (1 ticket).
- To purchase tickets or to purchase a page (or part of a page) in the Memory Book, write a check to CARA for the amount and send to: CARA, c/o 600 Grand Avenue #410, Oakland, CA 94610.

For more information you can go to the CARA website at: [www.californiaalliance.org](http://www.californiaalliance.org) or call the CARA office at 510-663-4086.

### **Note From Marty Omoto on Maggie Dee Dowling and Bill Powers:**

*Both Maggie “Dee” Dowling and Bill Powers are examples of advocacy that has made a difference in countless ways for countless numbers of people across the state over the many years covering a wide range of critical issues. I hope people will take time to think about the advocacy work of both Maggie “Dee” Dowling and Bill Powers – and take the time to remember them both, and to thank them for the difference they have made in so many lives. Neither one received any salary for their work.*

*Maggie of course is – at least for now – unable to continue her advocacy work, though she hopes to return as soon as she is able to. Her health right now is very precarious and there is concern about her recovery. So please send her cards, letters and messages of support. Such messages can help her in her recovery.*

*When I visited her in the hospital I made copies of photos of dozens of friends and others and taped them to the wall in her hospital room, to remind her that so many were thinking of her. She is a cherished friend to us all.*

*And for Bill Powers – please come to or support the event on March 18<sup>th</sup> to honor his work and life. He has fought so hard and for so long on issues of justice and fairness for everyone – but especially for those who have felt shut out, shouted down or shunted aside in the dreams that belong to all of us in this country. He has never forgotten those that policymakers – and even some other advocacy groups – would like to forget.*

*From issues of affordable and accessible housing, transportation, to real reforms in health care to needed in-home services and supports, Bill Powers has been there over the years and decades. Let’s all be there for him on March 18<sup>th</sup>. So many people count Bill as a wonderful friend – as I do too.*

*All lives matter. And so many lives that have made a difference to so many others. One can remember those who have passed away over the years and think of Bill Young, of Joan Lee, of Noel Neudeck, of Warren Mattingly, of Betty Bacon, of Bob Roberts, of Shirley Klein, of Natasha Littletree, of Mary Ann Jones, of Jim Sanford, of Ruth Shelton, of Donald Roberts, and so many, many others – many of whom we never got the chance to say “thank you” before they died.*

*Think of those lives, and remember **these** two lives now – Maggie Dee Dowling and Bill Powers. Lives that matter.*

**URGENT!!!!**

**PLEASE HELP CDCAN CONTINUE ITS WORK!!!**

We need your help. CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings, reports and alerts and other activities cannot continue without your help.

To continue the CDCAN website, the CDCAN News Reports. sent out and read by over 50,000 people and organizations, policy makers and media across California and to continue the CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings which since December 2003 have connected thousands of people with disabilities, seniors, mental health needs, people with MS and other disorders, people with traumatic brain and other injuries to public policy makers, legislators, and issues.

Please send your contribution/donation (make payable to "CDCAN" or "California Disability Community Action Network):

**CDCAN**

**1225 8th Street Suite 480 - Sacramento, CA 95814**

paypal on the CDCAN site is not yet working – will be soon.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO the Easter Seals, California Association of Adult Day Health Centers, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Toward Maximum Independence, Inc (TMI), Friends of Children with Special Needs, UCP of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, Southside Arts Center, San Francisco Bay Area Autism Society of America, Hope Services in San Jose, FEAT of Sacramento (Families for Early Autism Treatment), RESCoalition, Sacramento Gray Panthers, Easter Seals of Southern California, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Westside Regional Center, Regional Center of the East Bay, UCP of Orange County, Alta California Regional Center, Life Steps, Parents Helping Parents, Work Training, Foothill Autism Alliance, Arc Contra Costa, Pause4Kids, Manteca CAPS, Training Toward Self Reliance, UCP, California NAELA, Californians for Disability Rights, Inc (CDR) including CDR chapters, CHANCE Inc, , Strategies To Empower People (STEP), Harbor Regional Center, Asian American parents groups, Resources for Independent Living and many other Independent Living Centers, several regional centers, People First chapters, IHSS workers, other self advocacy and family support groups, developmental center families, adoption assistance program families and children, and others across California