

Compassionate Indy Chair,  
Connie Dillman



**Dear Compassionate Friend,**

“Compassionate Indy” is rapidly becoming a force for kindness and cooperation throughout the greater Indianapolis community. Our local organization joins forces with the world-wide initiative that began in 2008 when Karen Armstrong, author of “Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life,” won the \$100,000 **TED Prize** and decided to donate the award money toward the cause of creating more compassion in the world. Armstrong gathered leaders from across the globe, who came together and drafted a remarkable document on a single page: the “**Charter for Compassion**.” The Charter is now being used as a template for assisting communities worldwide in addressing their local problems peacefully and compassionately.

Initially sparked by a small inter-faith group, our local chapter of Compassionate Indy is one of the most recent communities to join the international Compassionate Cities movement, receiving approval as an official global “City of Compassion” in March of 2016. Our dynamic, multi-cultural group is energetically engaged in making Central Indiana a place known for its unconditional love and acceptance. We focus on a greater mission of inspiring and empowering all people to practice kindness while actively seeking to alleviate suffering. Our vision is for all people, corporate entities, and community institutions to treat all beings and the environment with respect and concern. The Golden Rule is a prominent feature of the international movement, which has been endorsed by Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama, and many others. It has been hailed by some as the most important movement of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Last year, Compassionate Indy partnered with the Center for Interfaith Cooperation and the Indiana Buddhist Center to bring the Dalai Lama to Indianapolis to give a public talk about compassion to more than 6,000 people. Various other projects are in the works for our growing local group, including **partnering** with other organizations working to make a difference in our community. (Add link to partner page here.)

We hope your organization will consider partnering with us!

Connie Dillman, Chairman  
Compassionate Indy