

Women of Means, Inc 2008 Annual Report

The mission of Women of Means is to improve the lives of women who are homeless or marginally housed through quality health care, education and advocacy.



A Letter from Founder and President Dr. Roseanna Means

Dear Friends:

2008 brought a seismic shift in the national economy that affected all non-profits and the foundations that support them. We all had to adjust, pull in our belts, slash all but necessary expenses, and dig in for the long haul.

Despite that downturn, we remain committed to our guiding principles of unfettered free health care access for the state's most vulnerable citizens through a corps of volunteer physicians backed by paid nurse case managers.

Highlights of 2008 include:

- ★ providing nearly **10,000** free clinical encounters for the second year in a row;
- ★ increasing our medical education elective placements by **200%**;
- ★ conducting an access study on perceived barriers to care;
- ★ and documenting the names, clinic locations and primary care providers of the women we see at Women's Lunch Place and Rosie's Place.

We learned that over **70%** of the women have MA Health and an

assigned PCP, but despite those traditional symbols of health care access, hundreds of barriers still get in the way of seamless care. We also began work on a curriculum that is designed to introduce "novice" clinicians (ie, those who have never worked with the homeless before) to the health care issues and medical conditions they are likely to see in the shelters. This curriculum uses case examples and includes the voices of women who share their own perspectives on how they have had to cope with chronic illness without the same resources that housed persons have.

We also teamed with an MGH neuroscientist who is studying occult brain injury in victims of domestic violence, trying to prove with functional MRI studies what we see in the shelters every day: that the cloudy cognition and inability to follow through for women who have been beaten is a result of brain scars interrupting neurotransmission. Collecting the data to prove what hinders women has important implications for health policy and may eliminate some of the stereotyping and stigmatizing that these women face when they are "non-compliant."

Women of Means is proud to report that we are now the **largest volunteer physician program in Massachusetts**. We continue to have a waiting list of physicians who want to work with us. The demand for medical student and medical resident placements is growing.

Our hope is to stay the course and be able to sustain and expand our critical work despite what the recession will bring. The degree of hospital savings, shelter support, medical education and mentoring that Women of Means provides, along with the powerful and vital social good that we do, make us proud. But pride won't pay our rent or help us purchase our vital medical equipment and supplies. We need more people to know about us and to donate to our programs. Every dollar helps. We are deeply grateful to everyone who supports us, because this work needs to be done and is needed now more than ever.

Thank you and bless you for helping us succeed in making health care more accessible and compassionate to thousands of women and children who are falling below the safety net.

Roseanna H. Means MD
December 2008

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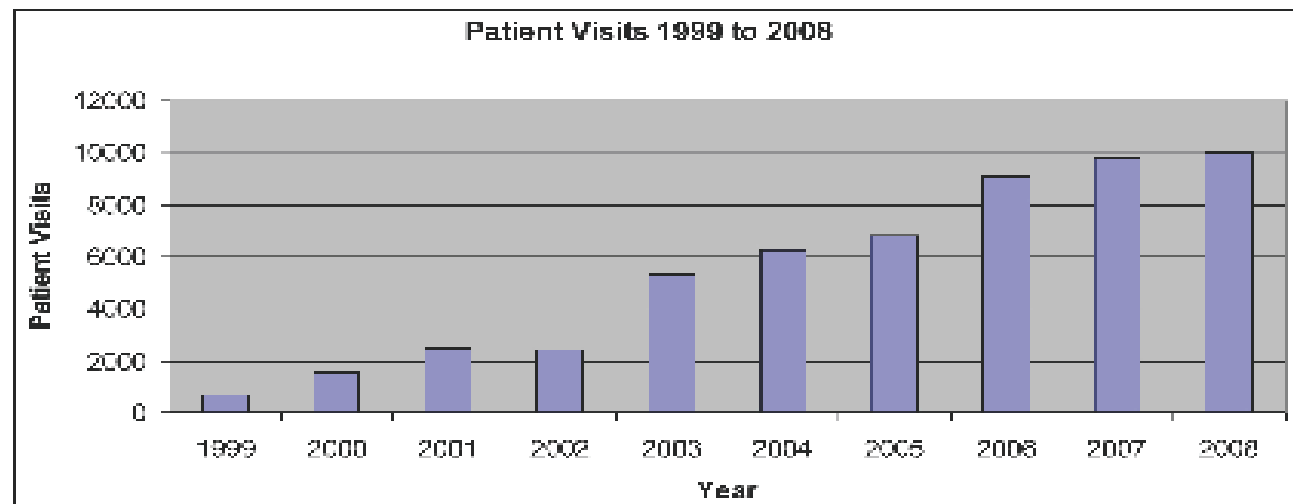
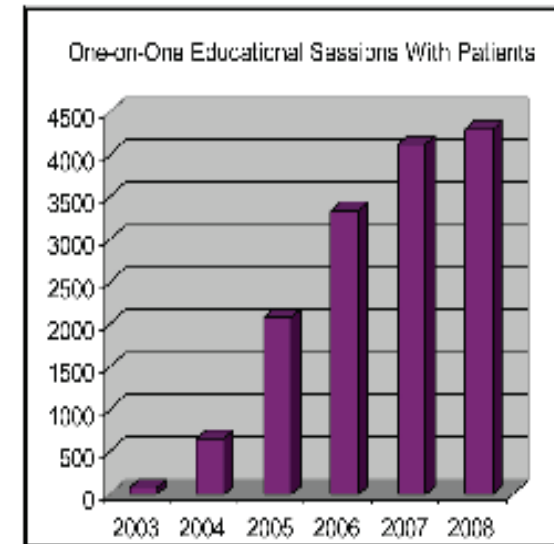
Joanne Smith, **Bookkeeper**

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What A Decade It Has Been!

This year, Women of Means celebrates 10 years of committed service to its patients. As demand for services has grown, so has the organization: in numbers of clinicians, client encounters, health impact, advocacy & outreach, and more recently, in provider education.

Never have the demands been higher or the needs greater. WoM has responded. Every \$50 donated to WoM is leveraged to over \$1,000 in urgent or acute health care, nurse case management, chronic disease prevention or reduced ER utilization.



HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL DONATES EXPERTISE

In October, WoM announced that the Community Action Partners (CAP), an organization of Harvard Business School alumni, selected WoM to receive technical assistance addressing business and management challenges faced by area non-profits.

CAP agencies receive technical assistance with strategic planning, market research, market strategies, financial planning & analysis, board development & governance and organizational development.

Tough economic times mean that homeless women have even less opportunity and are more at risk for poor health. Dr. Means has been strategizing with CAP to grow critical WoM services to meet these growing community needs.

DR. MEANS RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE

In May of 2008, Dr. Roseanna Means received an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Babson College. In his remarks, President Barefoot commented “Your alternative medical delivery model is a standard which others emulate, and your advocacy for women at the clinical, social justice, academic and health-policy levels will forever change how health care is administered in the United States.”



Dr. Means accepts an honorary Doctorate from Babson President Dr. Brian Barefoot

DR. MEANS RECEIVES AWARDS

Remarkable Women—Health Quarters

Heroes in Women’s Health—CVS Caremark

Champions in Health Care—Boston Business Journal

Rx for Excellence—MA Health Law Report

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

In keeping with a core mission to make health care more accessible and the needs of homeless women better understood, WoM has collaborated on several projects with area medical providers and area medical schools:

- Partnership with MGH Neuroscientist Dr. Eve Valera using MRI’s to study permanent brain damage in battered women. WoM brokered the relationship between residents of several battered women’s shelters, and will be named on all research papers coming from this study.
- Research to document health disparities and barriers to accessing services. WoM compiled and analyzed data indicating patients’ perceptions of care access issues and noting their preference for the compassionate, safe and confidential care that the WoM doctors and nurse give.

The Women of Means model

As part of its mission "to improve the lives of women who are homeless or marginally housed through quality health care, education and advocacy," Women of Means sends volunteer doctors into shelters, soup kitchens and safe houses in the Greater Boston area to provide free medical care for women and their accompanying children.

In 1999 one physician volunteered her time in two shelters. Today, a team of 25 volunteer and paid doctors and nurses work to:

- ★ Improve immediate and free, unencumbered access to health care for the Commonwealth's poorest women and children;
- ★ Provide medical supplies and equipment to health care professionals and shelter staff treating indigent populations;
- ★ Advocate for the women at clinical, social justice, academic and health policy levels;
- ★ Share Women of Means alternative medical delivery model with other health care professionals.

SPREADING THE WORD, EDUCATING OUR PEERS

Dr. Deb Blazey-Martin joined the Women of Means team in 2007. She oversees all the medical education efforts, reviews the clinical notes, manages the volunteer doctors and nurses' schedules, supervises the research projects and submits our proposals to the national medical and public health organizations in our ongoing efforts to share our model, showcase our results and stimulate the national dialogue about health care access for poor people.



Medical Director Dr. Deb Blazey-Martin

In 2008, Dr. Blazey-Martin and Dr. Means had several proposals accepted and were able to present locally, regionally and nationally at the Horizons for Homeless Children conference, the Society for General Internal Medicine and the American Public Health Association. Dr. Blazey-Martin also led the organization and production of the first draft of our Curriculum for Novice Providers. Since joining Women of Means in 2007, Dr. Blazey-Martin has increased medical students and residents participation by 200%.

Women of Means, Inc. provides its free medical care in shelters in
Boston, Dorchester, Roxbury, and Waltham.

Our administrative offices are located at:

148 Linden Street, Suite 208, Wellesley, MA 02482
T: 781-239-0290 F: 781-235-6819
www.womenofmeans.org

WOMEN OF MEANS, INC.
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the years ended December 31, 2008 and 2007

| | <u>2008</u> | | | <u>2007</u> | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Temporarily Restricted</u> | <u>Total Net Assets</u> | <u>Unrestricted</u> | <u>Temporarily Restricted</u> | <u>Total Net Assets</u> |
| REVENUES | | | | | | |
| Grants | \$ - | \$ 220,864 | \$ 220,864 | \$ 21,330 | \$ 287,750 | \$ 309,080 |
| Contributions | 245,529 | - | 245,529 | 325,762 | - | 325,762 |
| Fundraising events | - | - | - | 2,454 | - | 2,454 |
| Other | 5,927 | - | 5,927 | 4,726 | - | 4,726 |
| TOTAL REVENUES | <u>251,456</u> | <u>220,864</u> | <u>472,320</u> | <u>354,272</u> | <u>287,750</u> | <u>642,022</u> |
| NET ASSETS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTIONS | | | | | | |
| Grants for general operations | <u>386,838</u> | <u>(386,838)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>315,675</u> | <u>(315,675)</u> | <u>-</u> |
| EXPENSES | | | | | | |
| Program | 412,187 | - | 412,187 | 391,211 | - | 391,211 |
| General and administrative | 162,651 | - | 162,651 | 241,665 | - | 241,665 |
| Development | 58,547 | - | 58,547 | 48,950 | - | 48,950 |
| | <u>633,385</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>633,385</u> | <u>681,826</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>681,826</u> |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS | 4,909 | (165,974) | (161,065) | (11,879) | (27,925) | (39,804) |
| NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR, | <u>150,285</u> | <u>199,351</u> | <u>349,636</u> | <u>162,164</u> | <u>227,276</u> | <u>389,440</u> |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR | <u>\$ 155,194</u> | <u>\$ 33,377</u> | <u>\$ 188,571</u> | <u>150,285</u> | <u>\$ 199,351</u> | <u>\$ 349,636</u> |

See accompanying notes and independent auditor's report.

THANKS to all who have supported Women of Means!

2008 FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE DONORS

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10th Year Anniversary

Watch your mailbox!

WoM is looking for ideas about how best to honor — and celebrate — 10 years of serving the community. If you have a venue or event idea, a recommendation for this event, would like to volunteer to be on the Event Committee, or have fundraising or marketing experience to donate, please call Cathy at the Wellesley office at 781.239.0290 or email her at ccarrozza@womenofmeans.org.

2008 FUNDRAISERS

Spivak Girls Marathon Fundraiser

Wellesley College Theater

A Step Up

**Wellesley Booksmith
“Knit-a-Thon”**

Out of respect for privacy, WoM does not list individual donors; however, please know each donor's generosity is appreciated.



148 Linden Street, Suite 208, Wellesley, MA 02482

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