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Women of Means Perspectives

Our Mission

To improve the lives of women who are homeless or marginally housed through quality health care, education, and advocacy.

August 13, 2010

Dr. Means Receives 2010 Community Health Leaders Award

Dear Friend,

I'm so pleased to announce that on Thursday, August 12, Dr. Roseanna Means was selected to receive the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [2010 Community Health Leaders Award](#). This prestigious award is given annually to ten leaders who have created innovative improvements in community health care.

Ten years ago, Dr. Means started this organization with a vision of bringing free, quality health care to women in shelters. Since that time, she has worked day and night to make that vision a reality. Along the way, she has touched countless patients, co-workers and volunteers with her warmth, optimism and can-do spirit. Congratulations, Dr. Means, on this well-deserved honor!



This award gives national recognition on the incredible work of Women of Means (WoM), it also includes a grant to empower significant growth. We look forward to sharing news of our progress each month in our Enewsletter.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Morray, Jr.
President of the Board
Women of Means

The Doctor Is In: Q & A with Dr. Means

How will the 2010 Community Health Leader Award affect Women of Means?

It definitely raises our profile, and it shines a spotlight on our model of providing care for homeless women. We've proven that it's possible to provide appropriate, quality health care by meeting women where they are at--both literally and figuratively. If someone else can learn from what we've done, and implement the same concepts in other cities, that would be a huge success.

The grant funding will allow us to restore some part-time nursing positions that we were forced to cut during the recession, and add a new Director of Operations. We will be able to reach more vulnerable women and children, and train more young doctors and nurses about poverty medicine and the impact of community service. However, it does *not* mean that we can relax and coast along! We still need help from our donors to provide 10,000 free clinical visits and 4,000 case management activities that we log every year.

How did you get chosen for this award?

I was nominated by the folks at Atrius Health Foundation. Ann Marie Frakes, who was on their Development staff, volunteered with us this past winter, and she started the nomination process. From the hundreds of nominees, I was one of 15 finalists. Foundation representatives came and did a site visit, so they could see what we do, and get a feel for how effective it is to provide care for homeless women directly in the shelters. I was one of 10 awardees that were chosen by a national committee.

What is the best way for supporters to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Women of Means?

We hope everyone will save the date, and join us for our anniversary celebration on March 4, 2011. Making an anniversary gift to Women of Means makes a tremendous difference. Or come and work with us, spend some time either in our administrative offices, or help in the shelters. You don't have to be a nurse or a doctor—we have lots of opportunities to help. I guarantee you'll learn something, and you'll leave knowing you did something that matters.

Run the Boston Marathon for Women of Means!

The John Hancock Foundation has generously donated invitational entry "bibs" to the 2011 Boston Marathon. Here is your chance to run the marathon, and raise money for Women of Means at the same time. The number of bibs are limited. Contact Cathy at our offices for more information.

Healthcare Companions

New Volunteer Opportunities

Become a Healthcare Companion volunteer—no medical experience necessary! Homeless women face many challenges—fear due to past traumas, shame or illiteracy can prevent them from accessing medical care. The simple act of accompanying a woman to a doctor's appointment can give her the confidence

she needs—and change her life. Administrative and fundraising volunteer opportunities also available. To learn more, phone us 781-239-0290 or [e-mail](#) Women of Means.

[Save the Date!](#)

Our 10th Anniversary celebration is planned for March 4, 2011. Stay tuned for more details!

[Make a Donation](#)

Women of Means depends upon the generosity of our friends to provide the medical supplies with which our volunteer medical staff treats 7,000 women and children annually. Won't you please help?

[Volunteer](#)

Women of Means volunteers include some of the best doctors and nurses in the Boston area, as well as numerous lay volunteers who assist in fund-raising, administration and other roles. Call or email our office to find out how you can make a difference!



About Us

While working with a health clinic serving the homeless between 1990 and 1998, Dr. Roseanna Means observed that homeless women were under-represented. Upon investigation, Dr. Means discovered that traditional clinic processes overwhelm women impaired by exhaustion, mental illness and, most significantly, fear. Dr. Means founded Women of Means, an innovative new health care model, in 1999. Today, a team of over 20 volunteer and paid medical professionals bring care into the shelters where the women feel safest.

www.womenofmeans.org

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