



## Health Care Without Walls

Compassionate care for women and families in need

December 6, 2021

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Dear friends,

As we close out 2021, I am writing to thank you for the support you have given to Health Care Without Walls and to emphasize with all my heart how much your support means to the women and families we serve.

The past two years have been exceptionally difficult for all of us in so many ways. I am proud of what the extraordinary staff of Health Care Without Walls has been able to accomplish in the face of the pandemic, the enormous financial challenges, the escalation of violence against women, the dire lack of housing and safe shelter. Every single person who works for us invests her or his heart and soul into being an advocate for fairness, health equity, health care access and a dignified life on behalf of each of our clients.

I began this journey in 1999 when I established this organization, first as Women of Means, and now as Health Care Without Walls. In the beginning it was an idea born from passion and love. Now, 22 years later, it is a real entity. The concept of a health care delivery system that mindfully and purposefully closes gaps in health care for vulnerable women is one that resonates with the public and the policy makers.

In the last two years, I have brought HCWW to the threshold of its next chapter. We have our own space in downtown Boston. Our clinical work and outreach teams are thriving. Our housing success rate is increasing every month. We have changed thousands of lives for the better, welcomed healthier babies into the world, handed over apartment keys to women who spent years sleeping on the cold ground, helped hundreds of immigrant families navigate the bureaucratic complexities of not just government benefits but also job applications.

It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that I will be leaving Health Care Without Walls at the end of this year. I will continue to help vulnerable women at Brigham and Women's Hospital. But I need to step back, reduce my working hours, and give more of my time to my family. Health Care Without Walls is in a great place. I am proud of what I started, so incredibly blessed to have brought light and love into the lives of the women, who, in turn, trusted me with their secrets and dreams.

Please continue to support Health Care Without Walls. There is no greater thing you can do for these women.

With love and gratitude,

Roseanna Means, MD

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