HEALTH CARE UNSCRIPTED: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR WOMEN IN NEED
HONORING THE WORK OF DR. ROSEANNA MEANS
OCTOBER 3, 2019 • HARVARD CLUB, BOSTON

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On October 3rd, 300 people packed the largest dining room in the Harvard Club to celebrate Health Care Without Walls’ 20th anniversary. Thanks to the many generous sponsors and attendees, we raised over $300,000 that will be used to continue to offer the highest quality compassionate care to the women we serve who are experiencing homelessness.

One of the highlights of the evening was the dance video produced with the help of the women at Women’s Lunch Place, following which everyone in the room jumped up and danced to Pink’s “What About Us?” Indeed, my message to everyone is that none of us are immune from bad luck or bad circumstances.

Yet despite those circumstances, the women we know are smart, courageous, resilient and determined. They are funny and talented. The women we know have dreams to get more education, learn more skills, move on from poverty and become self-sufficient.

The best gift we give the women is our time. We do not make appointments; we make room.

And now, 20 years later, we are asking the health care system to make room for us. We are asking you to make room for us. There are more women experiencing homelessness than ever before. You have so generously helped us get this far; help us go farther. Help us help more moms and babies and the women who are alone and feeling forgotten. Help us change the systems that keep poor women beaten down. Help us help them move beyond homelessness and poverty to a better life.

I have learned that one of the most important things I can do to affect someone’s health is to offer hope. With your help, HCWW has made a difference dispensing hope with human kindness. We are changing the conversation about health care delivery. We are working to change health policy. We are changing lives and saving lives. Help us continue to sow compassion and hope to the thousands of women who need us every day.

The message we give these women is that we hear them, we love them and we will never forget them. Most importantly, the work we do is not about “them”; it’s not about me. It’s about the Grace of God. It’s about “us.” It’s about all of us.

Thank you for your caring and compassionate generosity. You are making such a big difference. Bless you.

- Roseanna Means, MD

The song “What About Us” debuted on Pink’s 7th album, “Beautiful Trauma” in 2017. The rhetorical question bemoans the way those in authority have let down so many people, so many “beautiful hearts” that are beautiful and resilient in an otherwise scary world.

But the song doesn’t stop there, with sadness and loss. It is actually a protest song, recognizing that ordinary people who have been abandoned by those in power can raise their voices and demand to be heard, seen, and taken care of.

This is a song that women who are struggling to be seen, heard, helped, can relate to.

“What About Us” became our anthem, recognizing 20 years of falling between the cracks of traditional healthcare systems, and the need to keep fighting for what is needed, what is right, in the face of a sometimes indifferent bureaucracy.

Roseanna Means has been leading the charge for change so that women receive the care they so desperately need and deserve. Her work has created a standard of care that is demonstrably improving health outcomes of women who are homeless.

This passion and energy to make a difference was on full display on October 3rd when the entire room joined Roseanna, our clients and staff in an empowering and uplifting dance of frustration, protest, and hope.

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See the joy for yourself! Visit healthcarewithoutwalls.org/events/HCWW20th and watch this amazing and inspiring dance video

Mosaic created by Linda Cundiff Presented to Roseanna Means, Honoree at the Health Care UNSCRIPTED 20th Anniversary Gala

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**“What About Us?”**

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HONORING THE WORK OF DR. ROSEANNA MEANS IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"They all have compassion because they know I’m a very private person and a hurting person, but I’ve grown and it makes me feel so enlightened with it. I feel like a human being." - Sandra

"No one goes unnoticed. She’s always hugging and really finding out how you are doing. The pain will go away if you have love, and [Roseanna] provides that kind of love." - Sylvia

"When I first met Roseanna, it was just her, trying to understand the problems. Roseanna, and now the whole team, have mastered it. You can turn to Roseanna and the team any time. And I have for more than 20 years." - Cheryl

"I went to the ER all the time for my COPD because my lungs would close up on me. Now I don’t have to because I come here and I tell her that I think it’s time and right away she gets the machine and I get a breathing treatment." - Maureen

"This organization means everything to me. Because I don’t think... if I didn’t have it, I wouldn’t have made it. I’ve been clean and sober over 10 years, I’m married, I go out every day to do outreach. [Roseanna] is such a dedicated doctor, a dedicated mom. That’s how I define her." - Diamond

"I felt safe. I never felt that way before when trying to seek help." - Shakurah

"To know that medical care is there is huge. And to know that a housing search is being conducted and someone is helping you... your sense of hope begins to rise." - Jane

Don’t forget the socks! Socks and warm, dry feet are a key component to enduring the winter elements for the homeless. We happily accept donations of new socks—XL white tube socks work best.

Health Care Without Walls
Compassionate care for women and families in need

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We rely on the generosity of our donors.

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Shopping online for the holidays? Don’t forget to use Amazon Smile and Amazon will donate to Health Care Without Walls

#1 holiday hack:
When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates
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Bridges to Elders
Welcome Home Basket

You may have heard of our Baby Goes Home Kits including baskets of items such as diapers, bottles, bath supplies, onesies and more for babies born into our Bridges to Moms program.

Well, they aren’t the only ones going home, thanks to the hard work and support from our Bridges to Elders team. When adult women succeed in finding housing through our BTE program, we welcome them home with a Welcome Home Basket stuffed to the brim with all of the supplies that any new home needs. Items include cleaning supplies, shampoo/conditioner and bath soap, toilet tissue and paper towels, kitchen utensils, a set of towels, warm slippers, and a hand-knit afghan blanket made with love by our community of generous knitters.

84% of our BTE clients with unstable housing engaged in a housing search last year, and we look forward to saying ‘Welcome Home!’ to each and every one in need of a place to call home.

Rosie’s Place Wellness Clinic Celebrates 25th Anniversary

We were so pleased to be recognized for 20 years of service at the Rosie’s Place Wellness Clinic 25th Anniversary Celebration held on September 19, 2019. Sharing the clinic with the Regis College nursing program and Boston Health Care for the Homeless, we serve more than 4,600 women annually, addressing the unique and often unmet needs of homeless women. Health Care Without Walls staffs the clinic every Wednesday and Thursday, with the hope of expanding clinic hours and adding our Bridges to Elders program in 2020.

Pictured below: some of the HCWW staff and volunteers at Rosie’s Place, alongside Mayor Marty Walsh and clinic founder Mary Smalarz.

At Health Care Without Walls, our mission is to improve the lives of women and families who are homeless or marginally housed through quality healthcare, education and advocacy.