



Medical Care for Women in Need

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Women of Means News Summer 2010

Dr. Means Receives 2010 Community Health Leaders Award

Dear Friend,

I'm pleased to announce that on August 12, Dr. Roseanna Means was selected to receive a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2010 Community Health Leaders Award.



Dr. Means with her CHL Award

This prestigious award is given annually to ten leaders across the US who have created innovative improvements in community health care. For a description of the program and to read about all the leaders, go to www.communityhealthleaders.org.

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 to the incredible work of Women of Means (WoM). It also includes a grant to design a project that will have significant measurable impact.

Sincerely,

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

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Medical Services provided pro bono on the streets and in the safe houses and shelters operated by: Women's Lunch Place * Rosie's Place * Casa Myrna Vazquez * Middlesex Human Service Agency * The Second Step

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 ---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 design a project that provides solid evidence of measurable impact. We can use it to leverage our visibility to raise money to restore some part-time nursing positions that we were forced to cut during the recession, and to 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 to Boston 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.



Ann Marie Frakes with Shereen at Women's Lunch Place

Who else received the award?

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has honored more than 180 *Community Health Leaders* since 1993. The work of the nine other 2010 recipients includes specialized care for dementia and Alzheimer's patients in Darwin, Minn.; a worker-owned collaborative that provides healthy food to a disenfranchised community in Oakland, Calif.; social services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth in Chicago; a disease prevention program for Hispanics in Central Florida; a disease management program for women living with HIV/AIDS in New York City; services for brain injury patients in Southwest Virginia; medical care and transition assistance for former prison inmates in San Francisco; dental care for homeless people in Phoenix; and a clinic for low-income and uninsured patients in Albuquerque, N.M.

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 wom@womenofmeans.org or at 781-239-0290 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 at 781-239-0290 or e-mail Women of Means: info@womenofmeans.org.

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?

Save the date!

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

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.