



Fall 2011 Newsletter

Founder's Corner

This year has been an exciting year of growth for Women of Means. We celebrated our 10th anniversary event at the MFA in March, and also welcomed new Board members Nancy Whitney and Mohammed Siddiqui.

Building a Medical Home Without Walls

With grant funds from the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader Award, we launched a two-year survey of our women's perceived health care needs, their barriers to care, and how our services have helped them overcome those obstacles. Using the lessons learned from our initial model, we started to improve our alternative health care safety net to better serve our clientele. Our new approach is to establish a "Medical Home Without Walls" – a model that will provide personal, unencumbered "gap care." We start by improving the health and their health literacy of homeless women, with the ultimate goal of helping them move beyond the shelters, and beyond helplessness and hopelessness.



As all of health care moves towards the concept of "global payments," Women of Means is already setting a new standard of health care for the underserved, based on our model of caring, connecting and community service.

Expanding services

To that end, as we head into 2012, we are poised to expand our services through hiring nurse leaders at our two main sites, Women's Lunch Place and Rosie's Place. This will improve our continuity of care, allow us to offer more workshops for the women, more in-services to shelter staff, and more person-to-person communications that are so critical to gaining our client's trust. I've always believed that human connectedness is the engine that drives the best, and most desperately needed social change. Thank you for your faith in us all these years. You are helping us to save lives and change lives. Bless you.

--Dr. Roseanna Means

Former Client Graduates with Medical Assistant Degree

Those of you who attended our 10th anniversary event remember the inspiring words from Rochelle Janey, a former Women of Means client who described how nurse Joan Gold became "one of my many angels who helped me during my darkest hours. She didn't judge me for being an addict or prostitute but showed me the right direction to go in for self healing."

We're pleased to report that Rochelle graduated this summer with an Associate of Science Degree in medical assisting. As you can see in the picture, Joan Gold continued to stand by Rochelle's side on graduation day. Congratulations, Rochelle!



Good News: Mary Moves In!



In our last issue, we featured the story of Mary, an elderly, chronically homeless woman. Though she qualified for Section 8 housing, her health issues prevented her from successfully searching for an apartment.

Today, Mary has her own apartment, thanks to the tireless efforts of our nurse care manager, Babs Vitale, and our Aging in Shelters (ASC) collaborative. Our team continues to grow, and we recently welcomed Jill Seaman as the second ASC nurse.

In Memoriam: Kip Tiernan

All of us at Women of Means are mourning the loss of our friend and hero, Kip Tiernan, the founder of Rosie's Place, who died on July 2. Boston is a better place for homeless women thanks to Kip's lifelong dedication to helping the homeless and impoverished. In addition to Rosie's Place, Kip also helped to found many other related organizations such as the Greater Boston Food Bank, Community Works and the city's Emergency Shelter Commission. Kip was honored at our 10th anniversary celebration in March.



Women of Means at Two More Family Shelters

We're pleased to announce that Women of Means is now providing care at two more shelter locations, Homes Suites Inn and Mary's House, both in Waltham. Homes Suites currently serves more than 126 families. Our work at Mary's House feels like coming home, as this is a site we previously served, before the statewide shelter cut backs in 2009.

By sending a physician and nurse team to each site one evening each week, we are able to provide onsite walk-in medical and wellness care, as well as individual counseling.

The team provides a wide range of information from basic first aid, healthy infant care, nutrition education, as well as assistance in reconnecting families to their primary care physician.

Gentex Optics Donates Glasses

Special thanks to Gentex Optics, of Dudley MA, for generously providing over 45 pairs of free prescription eyeglasses to WoM clients this year!



IRA Tax Deductions Expire Soon

If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can contribute up to \$100,000 to Women of Means directly from your IRA in 2011 and pay no taxes on this distribution. This deduction expires at the end of the year, so call us today for more information at 781-239-0290.

Bank of NY Mellon Provides \$15,000 Grant

Through a generous grant of \$15,000 from BNY Mellon's Peter E. Strauss Trust, Women of Means (WoM) will be able to continue its popular Aging in the Shelters Collaborative Program (ASC). Other funders of this vital program are: Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts Foundation, Yawkey Foundation, Boston Scientific, S.W.A.N. Society, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and CVS Caremark Charitable Trust.



Since its inception last year, ASC has successfully connected one hundred women aged 55 and older with primary care providers, facilitated safe and stable housing, engaged volunteer health care companions to accompany women to appointments, and worked with multiple agency collaborators.

The grant from BNY Mellon will enable WoM to provide vital medical and case management care to a homeless population of elderly women we serve at Women's Lunch Place and Rosie's Place in Boston.

In addition to generous funders like BNY Mellon, the success of the ASC is due to our key collaborators: Women's Lunch Place, Rosie's Place, HEARTH, HomeStart, Inc., Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership (MBHP), Dimock Center, and Brigham and Women's Hospital who have worked to develop and maintain an effective and sustainable system of care based at the shelters.

[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 2,500 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

Women of Means is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization Tax ID #043487205

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