



October 2012 Newsletter

Founder's Corner

For more than a decade, Women of Means (WoM) has provided both urgent and preventative care to women who are marginally housed or living in shelters. Now, we're pleased to announce that we plan to offer primary care services directly in the shelter setting.

Our new 'Medical Home Without Walls' pilot program will provide primary care to 50 of our most vulnerable elderly patients. Based on our highly successful '[Aging in Shelters Collaborative](#),' this new program will allow WoM to bridge the gaps that aging and chronically ill homeless women often experience with mainstream health care. Many of these patients have limited mobility that physically prevents them from accessing care through hospitals or health centers. Others are experiencing mental decline that makes scheduling appointments and managing their own care impractical.

We're able to offer this new level of service thanks to a \$75,000 strategic grant award from the [Clipper Ship Foundation](#). While this represents a new direction for Women of Means, we will continue to maintain our walk-in care for our 'core' 2,000 clients.

As the nation looks to seek solutions to provide cost-effective and comprehensive health care services to all of its at-risk citizens, we are hopeful that 'Medical Home Without Walls' could serve as a alternative service delivery prototype that can be applied to many other vulnerable populations on a local, regional and national level.

The generosity of all our supporters, foundations and volunteers makes it possible for Women of Means to continue its vital, life-saving work!

--Dr. Roseanna Means

Nurse Babs Vitale Receives Case In Point Platinum Award



This past May, Nurse Babs Vitale (pictured left, with a patient) was honored with Dorland Health's Case in Point Platinum Award for her work in case management and patient outreach. Babs is known by colleagues and patients alike as a devoted nurse who has made a difference in so many lives. She provides clinical care, care management, support, follow-up, outreach and coordination of services to poor, homeless and elderly women and is dedicated to engaging and empowering the patients she serves. Congratulations, Nurse Babs!

Special Thanks Dept...



Thanks to Daisy Troop # 75296 from Wellesley for their generous donations!

WoM receives help from throughout our community. Children, students, professional volunteers and incredibly generous donors make our work possible. Special thanks to:

...Web designer and Advisory Board Member **Margie Mintz** of Newton who will be giving www.womenofmeans.org a facelift!

...**Eastern Bank**, which highlighted Women of Means at their 2012 Celebration of Social Justice on October 4 at the Boston Marriott Copley Place. They also supported our work through an unsolicited \$10,000 grant.

...**Kerri Cotter and Sarah Litke**, two students from **Boston University's Center for Digital Arts Imaging**. This past summer they captured more than 200 images of the women we serve and our clinical staff in action at both Rosie's Place and Women's Lunch Place. These photos will allow us to show what words alone cannot portray.

... **Daisy Troop # 75296 from Wellesley**, who collected toiletries and wrote special "get well" cards for the homeless women we treat.

...**all of you who celebrated Roseanna's wedding** in May by making a gift to WoM. Your donations to WoM made her special day even more meaningful.

...**Old Mutual employees** for generously donating socks and CVS gift cards collected through their charitable foundation. These will help the women and children as they prepare for the colder months ahead.

Welcome to New Advisory Board Members!

This past April Women of Means held its first annual Advisory Board meeting! Our Advisory Board Chair, Marion Nierintz, has lead the way to expand our Advisory Board and help set the agenda for its future direction. We are pleased to welcome the Board's newest members: Jan Concannon, Pat Patricelli, Rusty Steiff, Jamie Walzer, Helen Gillcrist, Sandy Shapiro, Maureen Hartl, Estie Rappaport, Margie Mintz, Susie Brown, Caitlin Roos, Abby Nguyen-Burke, Andrienne Bentz, Elizabeth Mooney, Amy VanHeuverzwyn, Jann Leeming and Judy Ozbun.

Blogging from the Shelter



Monica Fung (above right) with Roseanna Means (center) and Guest

When Harvard Medical student Monica Fung takes a year off, she makes it count. While working toward her master's degree in Public Health, she also volunteered with WoM. One of her special contributions was the launching of a [blog dedicated to the experience of our clinical interns and volunteers](#). She also participated in the data analysis for the RWJF survey and also spent one day a week with Roseanna in the shelters. Roseanna and Monica have co-authored a paper that is being submitting to a peer-reviewed journal.

National Interest in Our Model of Care

The American Public Health Association has accepted three abstracts from Women of Means to be presented at their annual meeting this October. The abstracts present findings from a recent study funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that shows the effectiveness of our unique approach to healthcare delivery for homeless women and children we serve.

Dr. Means Keynote Speaker for Boston Jewish Community Women's Fund



Dr. Means was able to personally thank the Boston Jewish Community Women's Fund (BJCWF) for their generous \$7,500 grant at their Opening Event Reception on September 12 at the Exchange Conference Center in Boston. Dr. Means gave the keynote address to more than 50 BJCWF members whose funding

helps underserved women and girls in the Boston area.

Photo: (L to R) WoM Board Member Susan Kams, Dr. Roseanna Means, BJCWF Director Cindy Rubin

Rosie's Place Annual Health Fair

WoM ran three stations at the Rosie's Place annual Health Fair. Dr. Means and Nurse Laura



Stanikmas conducted bone density screenings, while John Schmitz, PA, educated the women about nutrition supplements. Board Member Charlotte Trubiani, who is also a weekly volunteer nurse at Rosie's, taught the women about menopause.

Urgent: Socks Needed

With the winter months fast approaching, WoM is soliciting men's white crew socks for our women. Pick up an extra pack of socks the next time you shop, or organize a workplace, church, or neighborhood "sock drive." You'll be amazed at how such a simple gift can make such a difference. Please call today 781-239-0290 to find out how you can help.

Dr. Means Presents at Caucus of Women Legislators

Photo: Roseanna Means, Rep. Alice Peisch (D-Wellesley) and Sen. Karen Spilka (D-Ashland)



This July Roseanna Means was honored to give a presentation on health care access and delivery in Massachusetts, specifically focusing on the needs of underserved populations, including homeless women and their families.

We Will Never Forget...

Many amazing women are a part of Women of Means. We are saddened by the loss of two women that have touched many lives.



Chun Hui (Tina) Greenwood (pictured above, middle) was a WoM client who passed away August 22, 2012. Though Tina endured much pain and suffering from liver cancer, she was a sparkling soul with a feisty personality. She was grateful for her life, and we will all remember her energetic hugs in greeting and her whispered "I love you" when she raced out the door.



Joan Gold (pictured above, left) was a former WoM nurse who died on October 2 after a 10 year battle with breast cancer. A real-life "angel," Joan dedicated her entire professional career and much of her personal time to helping those most in need. She was a truly tireless, compassionate voice for the underserved members of our community. You can read more about how Joan's life of service made the world a better place at www.welovejoanie.com/p/obituary.

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)
148 Linden Street, Suite 208, Wellesley, MA 02482
Phone: 781.239.0290 | Fax: 781-235-6819
Email: wom@womenofmeans.org