Founder’s Corner

Along with the rest of Boston, the Women of Means clinical team is happy to see the last of the winter of 2015. Those long nights and frigid, snowy days took their toll on our clients with mental illness and medical conditions that require careful and close monitoring. One of our ladies died of an overdose. Another succumbed to leukemia because she was unable to reach the medical team in time. We mourn these losses as we would mourn any family member—women who might otherwise be nameless faces, but have won a place in our hearts.

The good news is that we are privileged to work with nurses, doctors and volunteers, who give the women and children such tenderness, time, love and attention. Children and moms in the family shelters made it through the winter and the flu season because our teams showed up to treat sore throats, earaches and tummy troubles. The women coming to Women’s Lunch Place and Rosie’s Place relied on us to control their diabetes, bronchitis and muscle pains. Thanks to the donations from our local supporters, everyone got new clean socks when they needed them, and lovingly knit hats, mittens and scarves to fend off the icy blasts.

Our Elder Care program has succeeded in helping 50 women receive comprehensive and personal care from the nurse practitioner and our two community health workers. We help them get housed, and once they are housed, they receive home services, accompaniment to medical appointments, pharmacy deliveries of their meds, support and counseling about nutrition, blood pressure, arthritis. Just last week, one of the women in this program who underwent knee replacement surgery was visited by 3 members of our team while she was in the hospital. Imagine—she used to be homeless, and now she has a home, and people who care for her, who want her to know that when she is in pain, she is not alone. Isn’t that what we all want?

Women of Means at Work:
Serving Homeless Families

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty estimates that between 2.3 and 3.5 million people in the United States are experiencing homelessness each year. The National Center on Family Homelessness estimates that one out of 50—about 1.5 million—American children are homeless each year. National statistics reported in 2013 show that the average age of a homeless person is 8 years old.

Family homelessness is at record levels in Massachusetts. In the fall of 2014, there were more than 4,800 families with children and pregnant women in Massachusetts’ Emergency Assistance shelter program, and 2,012 of these families with children were being sheltered in motels.

At the Women of Means Family Shelter Clinic in Waltham, our clinicians meet the immediate medical needs of homeless families, primarily single mothers with very young children under age 5, and re-connect them to mainstream pediatric and primary care. Located in a former motel, this Waltham facility temporarily shelters more than 80 families with more than 130 children.

Our Waltham team serves the shelter once a week and usually consists of a volunteer doctor and a coordinating staff nurse. They run a “bridge care” clinic—filling in where former Primary Care Physicians left off. Our WoM team also provides transitional primary care—all free of charge and without insurance billing.

In addition to walk-in medical care, each week our clinical care team offers personalized patient education and group counseling sessions on such topics as parenting and nutrition, and provides routine diagnostic and screening tests, over-the-counter medical supplies, medical exams and referrals.
From The Executive Director

There is a famous proverb that states, “no matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.” Spring and the promise of warmer days are finally making an entrance. The winter was long and the needs were great. Women and children experiencing homelessness were faced with the most challenging circumstances this year and Women of Means was there for them. Our mission, “to improve the lives of women who are marginally housed through quality healthcare, education, and advocacy,” remains the focal point of what we do each day.

This year marks a landmark anniversary for Women of Means as we celebrate our 15th year of service. As we track the milestone events of those women and children we serve, it is equally important to track and recognize important milestones within the organization. This is the year of reflection and planning. We have made the following commitments since the Fall:

1. Updated logo, website, and marketing materials
2. Internal marketing audit complete with recommendations and execution strategy
3. Staff transitions
4. New strategic plan
5. Updated database system
6. Program expansion
7. 15th Anniversary Gala Event at Fenway Park

We are engaged in a full-scale review of our program and structure with the mission of Women of Means fully guiding our every decision. It is an exciting time to be invested in the work of Women of Means. We are changing lives through our innovative model of healthcare delivery and you are helping us make that possible. We are grateful for your commitment to Women of Means and we value our partnership with you.

Welcome New Staff

We are pleased to welcome Scott Bryson, Eileen Samels, and Alexis Ortiz to the Women of Means administrative staff. Scott and Eileen joined us in January and Alexis came on in March.

Scott Bryson has significant experience working in education and non-profit organizations as Director of Development, Philanthropy Manager, and Executive Director. He began his studies at Boston University where he graduated with a B.A. from the College of Arts and Sciences, M.Ed. from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Boston College, and a C.S.S. in Administration and Management from Harvard University. Scott also serves as a volunteer director of the New England Colonials, an international high school basketball program.

Eileen Samels has held positions in banking, publishing, and educational consulting as Director of International Sales, Principal for U.S. Sales and Marketing, and most recently, as Financial, Administrative and Marketing Support at the Education Alliance. Additionally, Eileen has spent time volunteering with the Foundation for MetroWest. She graduated with a B.A. in Economics and Computer Science from Union College and an M.B.A. from the Carroll School of Management at Boston College.

Alexis Ortiz earned a B.A. in English and Communications from Simmons College and has since held many different jobs in a variety of disciplines. Notably, she has worked in Human Resources and as a Healthcare Recruiter for over ten years. She is also heavily involved in community healthcare, participating in the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life annually, serving as an American Red Cross instructor, and donating her time and resources to multiple health-oriented organizations.

Sara Campbell

Many thanks to Sara Campbell for hosting a lovely night of conversation and shopping at her Wellesley Boutique in Linden Square on April 9th. Though it did not feel it outside, spring was in the air as we were surrounded by an array of beautiful clothing in soft, spring tones.

We were joined by the Greer Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors and Shift Your Style for a night of finances, fashion, and fun, all in support of Women of Means and the work we do.

All proceeds donated will go directly to supporting our shelter clinics.

Women of Means, Inc.
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Music of the Night:
Longwood Symphony Orchestra Concert
Benefits Women of Means

On Saturday, March 14, the Longwood Symphony Orchestra held its second annual benefit concert in support of Women of Means’ work with Greater Boston’s homeless population. The LSO is a group of volunteer musicians and professional healthcare providers who raise funds for medically underserved populations through their Healing Art of Music concert series.

The concert in Boston’s historic Jordan Hall was preceded by a champagne reception, the proceeds from which also went to supporting our organization. Ellen Duby and her team of volunteers were a great help in organizing the reception which provided those in attendance an opportunity to meet and mingle with members of our administrative staff.

The concert, under the direction of Maestro Ronald Feldman, began with Gazebo Dances, a lively compilation of works by award-winning composer John Corigliano, followed by a cello concerto by German composer Eugene d’Albert, exquisitely performed by Guest Artist Adrian Daurov. Bizet’s renowned Carmen Suite No. 1 & 2 closed the evening’s concert.

Women of Means is very grateful to our Benefit Concert Sponsors Rockland Trust, Simpson Gumpertz & Heger Inc., Partners Healthcare, and Dr. Roseanna Means for their generous support.

Of course, a very special thank you to the Longwood Symphony Orchestra for an outstanding evening of music, friendship and philanthropy!

“Our Spring Appeal will be in the mail in early May. A donation to Women of Means is a wonderful way to honor Mom on Mother’s Day. You may also donate online at our website anytime.

April is National Volunteers Month. Truly, every month, day and hour should honor volunteerism, for it is the lynchpin of a caring and engaged society.

At Women of Means, volunteers are the backbone of our organization. First and foremost are the dedicated physicians and physician assistants who give their time in the shelters and clinics in and around Boston. Though we calculate the value at more than $500,000 of service each year, their impact is priceless in the lives of women and families in need.

And the physicians will tell you that they in turn are gratified to be able to help these women and practice medicine in a way that is caring, connected, and impactful. Indeed, that must be the case, as our volunteer doctors tend to stay with us for many years, and we have a waiting list of new physicians waiting to join us in our mission.

But it is not just the medical staff that makes a difference. We rely on a host of volunteers to support our office, events, and all aspects of our operations. Whether mailing newsletters or decorating tables at Fenway park, the dedication of our volunteers is admirable.

To all of you who help us improve the lives of those less fortunate, we say Thank you.

Ellen Duby along with her team of volunteers
Dr. Roseanna Means; Dr. Thomas Sheldon, Chairman of the LSO Board; and LSO Executive Director Nick Adams

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”
— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

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Did you know...

Women of Means relies solely on your generous grants and gifts to provide the necessary nursing care and medical supplies in support of our volunteer physicians. Here's how much of a difference you can make:

- Your gift of $1,000 provides critical daily nursing care for 25 clients at Rosie’s Place.
- Your gift of $500 purchases asthma supplies for 35 clients at Women’s Lunch Place.
- Your gift of $250 pays for diabetes kits for 5 moms at Family Shelters.
- Your gift of $100 purchases life-saving antibiotics for 100 clients on Boston’s streets.
- Your gift of $50 supplies lab kits to all our Women of Means clinics.

Looking to make it to Fenway Park but can’t hit a curve ball or throw a slider? We can help with that.

Volunteers are needed for our Women of Means 15th Anniversary Celebration to be held at Fenway Park on October 1, 2015.

Volunteers with experience in public relations, communications, event planning, fundraising, and entertainment would be especially helpful. To learn more about volunteer opportunities with WoM, please call or email Michelle Smith at 781.239.0290 or msmith@womenofmeans.org.

Stay connected!

Do we have your email address?
Have you liked us on Facebook? Followed us on Twitter?
Stay connected on the latest news, events, and services at Women of Means.
Send your email address to wom@womenofmeans.org
And be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

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Stay connected!

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