



Spring 2013 Newsletter
Founder's Corner



(L-R: Karen Byrd, NP, Dr. Means, Dr. Shaun Austin)

Women of Means (WoM) is pleased to announce the official start of its Medical Home Without Walls (MHWW) project! As reported in our last newsletter, the MHWW program will deliver comprehensive primary care in the shelters and on the streets to a group of 50 of our most vulnerable women, aged 65 and over. To make this program possible, WoM is partnering with the Boston Community Medical Group, which is affiliated with Boston Medical Center.

Dr. Shaun Austin, a current primary care physician dedicated to serving the poor and disadvantaged, has stepped up as the supervising physician for the project. Dr. Austin's medical training included work with Boston Health Care for the Homeless and the Boston University Outreach Van Project. Karen Beard Byrd, NP, will provide continuity of care directly to the women in the shelters, or at a location of their choice. Karen has more than 30 years of nursing experience and specializes in working with patients who are elderly, homeless or have mental health problems.

Of course, we will continue in our founding mission to provide walk-in, 'gap' medical care to 2,500 women in our 7 shelter-based clinics in both the metropolitan Boston Area and in Waltham. But we're also thrilled to be able to offer this next level of care for women who face so many obstacles to quality primary care. Through the Medical Home Without Walls program, we can eliminate many of the obstacles these patients face when trying to manage their care on their own. Thank you for all you do to help Women of Means provide compassionate care for women who are homeless.

--Dr. Roseanna Means

Dr. Means Taking it to the Top...of Mt. Kilimanjaro!

This June, WoM Founder and President, Dr. Roseanna Means will climb Mt. Kilimanjaro to raise funds and awareness about the challenges faced by women who are homeless.

In addition to trying to reach the summit, Dr. Means says, “My goal is to draw attention to the struggles of homeless women and children whose lives are one daunting challenge after another. Indeed, to be homeless is to face a mountain of fear, helplessness, hopelessness, poor health, poverty, vulnerability and struggle that is overwhelming. Often the way is obscured, but by putting one foot in front of the other, we can one move forward.”

Climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro is a physical challenge for any athlete, and especially so for Dr. Means, who underwent a double knee replacement several years back. If you would like to support Roseanna on this climb, please donate online at www.womenofmeans.org or call our office at 781.239.0290



Watch for Women of Means on CBS Evening News!

We are thrilled to announce that CBS Evening News will be airing a piece on Women of Means this spring! In addition to highlighting the day-to-day activities of WoM, this recently-produced segment includes an inspiring interview with Diamond – one of our long-term clients who has overcome many obstacles, including violence, drugs and mental and physical illness in order to get her life back on track.

In Memoriam...

This winter, the Women of Means community lost a cherished patient.

Christine/Blessed/David, one of our shelter patients, took her own life after a continuing struggle with mental illness. We mourn this loss. As one of our clinicians said when she learned of this tragic passing, “Needless to say, I faced the day with a very heavy heart – and I hope Christine/Blessed/David found peace.”

Special Thanks Dept...

Thanks to Caitlin Roos, recent member of WoM’s Advisory Board, we have received a grant from **Belmont Savings Bank** in the amount of \$1,000 to fund our family shelters program in Waltham.

Also, thanks to **Sailor’s Snug Harbor** for their first-time grant to WoM in the amount of \$10,000. Their grant will support shelter-based nursing care for elderly women.



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.

[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?

Exporting WoM to the UK



Dr. Tanur (left) with a patient.

We are proud to announce that in April, WoM's Medical Director, Dr. Marcia Tanur, will give a presentation to the Royal College of General Practitioners entitled 'Out in London...and Boston: Teaching Medical Care for Homeless, Motel Families.' Dr. Tanur is a family practice physician who provides oversight and direct medical care at the Home Suites Inn and Mary's House family shelter clinics in Waltham.

[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!

www.womenofmeans.org

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