



Spring 2012 Newsletter

Founder's Corner

The impact we are making in so many women's lives is priceless. It's not just handing out cough drops in a shelter, or taking someone's blood pressure. It's about being there for them at every step, from the depths of destitution to a safer and healthier place.



On Christmas Day, I visited the woman whose story was told in our annual appeal letter. I wasn't able to tell her in advance that I was coming because she doesn't have a phone, so she was really surprised and happy when I showed up with my fiancé with a bag full of gifts. She is doing so much better than two years ago. Still wrestling with mental illness, but thank God she is not sleeping on the sidewalks any more. Over the holidays we were given knitted hats, scarves and mittens from the women at St. Andrews Episcopal Church in Wellesley as well as Tufts Alumni Association. I brought her a set which she was very excited to receive. You can see her showing off with my gifts and jauntily posing with the knitted items in the attached photo.

I would like to thank our supporters for their kind wishes regarding my upcoming marriage this May! Many have asked about acknowledging this happy occasion. What would mean the most to my fiancé, Stuart, and me would be a donation in our honor to Women of Means.

And finally, I want to thank everyone who helps us with this lifesaving work. Whether you help through financial resources, in-kind donations, creative fundraisers, or through volunteering your time, please know that your gift is cherished.

--Dr. Roseanna Means

Miranda Russell Benefit Concert

Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
Pre-concert coffee and dessert at 7:00 p.m.
Wellesley Hills Congregational Church
Cost: \$35
Buy your tickets now – call 781.239.0290 today!



Join us to hear award-winning singer [Miranda Russell](#). Critics call her performances “heart stopping,” “sultry,” and “stunning,” and compare her to Sarah McLachlan and Linda Ronstadt. You'll enjoy an eclectic mix of pop, country, jazz and blues—all while raising funds for Women of Means. Don't miss it!

Our Women Get Noticed!



Women of Means nurse **Babs Vitale** (pictured above, giving a "heartfelt" presentation at the Women's Lunch Place on Valentine's Day) is a finalist in Dorland Health's 3rd Annual Case in Point Platinum Awards, in the "Case Care Manager—Patient Outreach" category. She'll be honored at the National Press Club on May 9 in Washington DC, at the event sponsored by Dorland Health.

- **Old South Church** honored Women of Means with the **2011 Christenson Award**, which recognizes an organization that has performed extraordinary work, and contributed \$2,060 to Women of Means.
- **Dr. Marcia Tanur**, WoM Medical Director, had an abstract selected for presentation at the 45th Annual Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Conference on April 25-29 in Seattle, WA.
- **Roseanna Means** was recently featured in the book "[Boston, Inspirational Women](#)" by Boston Globe photographer Bill Brett and his daughter Kerry Brett. The book documents women who are influential and inspirational in Boston and beyond.

Patient Survey Underway

With the generous support of a research grant from the [Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#), WoM has begun a two-year study of our healthcare services. An independent evaluator will provide an unbiased report on the impact and the breadth of the services we provide. Currently, more than 100 patients have taken part in a survey that is helping us to better understand who they are, why they use our services, and identify opportunities for improvement. We expect to complete this study in 2013.

Rockland Trust Supports Homeless Families



(L to R) **Daisy Siddiqui** of Rockland Trust, **Joe Morray**, Women of Means Board Chair, **Roseanna Means**, and **Mohammed Siddiqui**, Women of Means Board member.

Rockland Trust recently presented Women of Means with a \$10,000 check to support our work at two family shelter sites in Waltham.

"At Rockland Trust, we believe in strengthening the communities where we work and live," said Ralph Valente, Director of the [Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation](#). "We are pleased to help Women of Means provide medical assistance to at-risk women and children."

The grant will pay for free, on-site medical care for families at two recently added shelter sites: Home Suites Inn and Mary's Place in Waltham, MA.



Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Special Thanks To...

[Hopkins Medical Products](#) and [Atrius Health Foundation](#). They donated critical supplies, including blood pressure cuffs, digital monitors and pulse oximeters that have already been put to good use by our clinicians!

Pedro Barbosa, who honored the memory of his wife, **Pam Whitney**, with a fundraiser to benefit Women of Means. Pam was an amazing woman who worked to improve the welfare of women and children, but lost her battle with cancer in 2010. Pedro and his son Michael celebrated her life by holding a memorial reception in November 2011. In total, Pam's loving friends and family donated more than \$4,000 to Women of Means.

Marion Nierintz, Chair of WoM's Advisory Board and highly-valued mentor, held a "friendraiser" in her home. Not only did Marion help to raise more than \$3,400, but she was instrumental in recruiting new board members and volunteers through this event.

[CVS Caremark](#) for generously funding a feature piece on WoM in the Boston Business Journal's 2012 Annual Giving Guide this past December. This feature was invaluable as it has resulted in some wonderful exposure for WoM

[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!

Wellesley Student Learns What Women Need



Shernaz Dossabhoj is a pre-med student at Wellesley College who gained hands-on experience with Women of Means this summer. Upon returning to campus, she presented what she learned with her classmates.

"Policy initiatives and legislation tackle homelessness with a top-down approach, but Women of Means helps these women from the bottom-up," said Shernaz. "To incorporate these women back into society, our policymakers need to be reminded that these women have faces and names."



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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