Dear Friends,

Most Rosie's Place guests have lost so much. Some of their losses are so very large—housing, jobs, health—that guests take years to recover. Some of their losses cannot be made up, like childhood photos gone in a fire or frayed relationships with friends and family. Many times, though, with help and support, our guests can begin to reconstruct the pieces of their lives to create a new beginning. And at Rosie's Place, we've found that through that reconstruction, our guests rediscover their voice.

We celebrate the ability of our guests to speak up and take control of everyday life decisions in a responsible and informed way. We know that access to information is empowering, knowing how to use that information is critical and acting with courage develops over time when decisions are supported without judgment or criticism. And we know that when a guest finds her voice, her road to a safer and more dignified life becomes immeasurably closer.

And so at Rosie's Place, we strive to honor our guests' voices—just as we are sure to include the voices of our volunteers, supporters and staff—as we create new programs and reconfigure longtime ones. We know that our guests' voices authenticate and enrich what we do.

In the best of times, our guests work hard to make ends meet—in the meaner times, they count on Rosie's Place even more. From food programs like our Dining Room and Food Pantry, to material assistance and advice provided through our Overnight, Advocacy and Outreach Programs, we aim to help women meet their biggest needs, right now. Our Women's Education Center, Self Advocacy and Legal Service programs work with women around longer-term needs, to escape the constant deprivation many of our guests face.

In this annual report, we are pleased to describe the many ways your support offers tangible help to thousands of poor and homeless women every year. And we're proud to highlight the voices of the people who ensure we’re here each day: our donors, our volunteers, our community partners and our staff. And naturally, we hear the voices of some of the guests who have come to Rosie’s Place and have helped to shape a community that cares.

With faith,

Deb Pasculano     Sue Marsh
Board Chair    President

At Rosie’s Place, we celebrate the ability of our guests to speak up and take control of everyday life decisions ....
It all starts with our guests. They are the center of our work.

For more than 42 years, poor and homeless women who have nowhere else to turn have found a place, Rosie’s Place. Here they are welcomed by our dedicated staff, who offer our guests the assistance they need and the unconditional love and understanding they deserve. Volunteers lend their time and talents to bolster our work in so many essential ways. Community partners who link their resources with ours create another layer of support. And our individual, corporate and foundation donors continue to embrace our mission with their generosity. Together we create concentric circles of caring as we all lend our unique talents, views and voices to improving the lives of more than 12,000 women a year.

From the day we opened our doors, we recognized that, as our founder Kip Tiernan said, “The journey to justice can only be made in the company of others.” Rosie’s Place has always been in the Boston community; but more so, we are part of the fabric of our community. In order to accomplish all we dreamed, our exceptional staff reached out to others. Over the years we have come to rely on the thousands of hours of time and talent donated by volunteers in our dining room, food pantry and Women’s Education Center. We have also collaborated with a great many partners who share our goals, including state offices, neighboring shelters, Boston schools and public housing, benefiting from their experience and enhancing the reach of our services. We are all in this together.

Because of your sustained kindness and support, we continue to be able to do more and be more for the too-often forgotten women of Boston. We value the essential role every member of the Rosie’s Place community plays in our success and we appreciate the diversity of perspectives you bring to our work. We are the richer for these many voices blending together to form one strong, affirming chorus of support.
Rosie’s Place goes above and beyond to support our families...
Tenisha: “It is a great feeling to work for an organization that not only recognizes your hard work but gives you the opportunity to do more for the Rosie’s Place community. I enjoy my outreach at six Boston Public Schools, bringing our services on-site to moms and families with dignity, respect and compassion.”

Principal Lamour: “We have a lot of transient families at the Holmes School with so many unmet needs and we found that a partnership with Rosie’s Place would greatly benefit many of our students and their single moms. This is our second year with the Community Collaborative, and one of the biggest impacts we’ve seen is an increase in female parent engagement. Rosie’s Place goes above and beyond to support our families and, through positive word of mouth, we see the number of women involved with the school growing.”

We know that our work does not stop within the walls of Rosie’s Place; not every woman in need of services crosses our threshold. We have widened our impact to reach out to women in the community: Along with our school partnerships, we have established a Rosie’s Place satellite at the Franklin Field Public Housing development. Our team offers tenants services such as advocacy, home visits, family law assistance, career counseling and food assistance. In FY2016, Rosie’s Place served more than 1,600 Franklin Field residents and BPS families. With the development of a third Community Collaborative this year— with the Massachusetts Trial Courts—Rosie’s Place will be able to connect even more women to the help they need.
“I passed through the doors of Rosie’s Place on April 26, 2010 and crossed a threshold. I was looking for three things—shelter, an AA meeting and a sponsor. Right away, I could feel my attitude change. I got a bed and started thinking I was ‘homeless with a solution.’ I found a meeting. And I was so lucky to have Kip [Tiernan] as my sponsor. Our one-year relationship got me on my journey...I’m 23 years sober and still come here today to give back what has been freely given to me. Now I have a key to my own place. Rosie’s Place has taken care of me emotionally, spiritually, mentally, physically. It has led me to everything that I need. I found my gifts and I’m writing a book now. That’s a miracle.”

Rosie’s Place, through its Arts Program and other offerings, presents many opportunities for guests to connect with their talents and build upon their strengths. For example, Florence is part of a creative writing group led by two longtime volunteers, she takes part in a monthly memoir workshop and she contributed to the book of guest writing published this spring. In a given month, guests can take advantage of art trips to museums or performances, classes in photography or painting and craft workshops where crocheting and quilting is taught. Thanks to the donations of volunteer talents and supplies, Rosie’s Place can provide a “blank canvas” for guests’ self-expression.
MICHELLE WU

“I interned at Rosie’s Place during law school. My mom had started having trouble with mental illness pretty suddenly and it seemed like our world collapsed overnight. And to find an organization that was supporting women and their families in that same type of chaos and need—it felt like something I would find a way to give back to. The mission of Rosie’s Place was visionary when Kip [Tiernan] started the organization and remains so critical to connecting people to services today…I have led the Boston City Council to really think about these questions: How do we end chronic homelessness, how do we connect residents to services, how are we providing supports for mental health and recovery, which often are underlying the housing situation of so many families? These issues are important to me.”

Boston City Council President Michelle Wu currently sits on the Rosie’s Place Board of Directors, underscoring the organization’s role as advocates for the issues that affect our guests. Our Public Policy department both works to represent the interests of our guests at the State House through direct lobbying and coalition building and to make a personal impact by empowering guests and supporters to be actively involved in advocacy. This year, guests took part in a public policy training and told their stories at the State House, learned how to register voters, and took to the streets to garner signatures for a ballot initiative. Other public policy activities included the creation of election guides for guests, a staff State House lobby day, and testimony on numerous pieces of legislation, including the Trans Rights Law and Equal Pay Law.
Rosie’s Place has given me so much: a sweater when I was cold; Charlie tickets; help with phone calls (the advocates are my ears); 21 days of peace and serenity.
Jane: “I’ve been at Rosie’s Place for more than 15 years. I enjoy interacting with guests and they’ve taught me a lot. I’ve learned patience, to really listen to where the person is coming from, to meet guests where they’re at, and not to jump to conclusions and judge. When a guest comes into the lobby, especially for the first time, it’s important that she feel welcomed. We always smile and look her right in the eye. We want her to know that we’re here if she needs us. What help we give is always up to her.”

Susan: “Jane has been so very kind to me. There was a day not too long ago when I was beyond myself, full of anger and frustration because my wallet was stolen. Jane offered solutions, a gentle hand and a soft voice. When I walked away, I kept hearing her voice over and over and over in my head. I did calm down and was able to get back on track… I am extremely hard of hearing and I miss a lot due to the language barrier. Rosie’s Place has given me so much: a sweater when I was cold; Charlie tickets; help with phone calls (the Advocates are my ears); 21 days of peace and serenity.”

Jane’s longevity at Rosie’s Place speaks to the deep commitment she makes to fulfill our mission every day. She works among a staff of 78, some of whom have dedicated 15, 20, even 25 years of their work life to making sure that when a woman comes through our doors, she knows she is valued and that we can help make things better. Many new guests find beds in our Overnight Program, where close to 300 women last year found sanctuary and the chance to stay in one place for three weeks while considering their next steps. Should our overnight guests want assistance, our team of multi-lingual Advocates is ready to provide one-on-one help with housing, education and employment opportunities, and much more. Last year more than 12,000 women in need found the services, programs and loving kindness that made a real difference in their lives at Rosie’s Place.”
BRENDA D.

“I’ve been coming to Rosie’s Place for more than 10 years, and they have done a lot for me. They’ve helped me get set up in my apartment and visit me every month to make sure everything’s ok. Now I have the chance to work part-time making jewelry. I love it! I especially love making necklaces and earrings; it brings out my creativity. And the women I work with are like family—mothers, sisters, cousins. Everyone gets along and we watch out for each other.”

Enhancing the abilities of guests who work in the Women’s Craft Cooperative is one of the many ways the Self-Advocacy department fosters growth in the women we serve. Once guests have moved through emergency situations and start to seek stability, we strive to empower them to take individual and collective action to create change in their lives. This can be achieved through activities that increase their knowledge and confidence, build community, provide leadership opportunities and inspire political activism. Guests can take part in the Leadership Institute, Know Your Rights trainings, supermarket tours that encourage healthy eating, a walking group and the guest-run community garden.

“Now I have the chance to work part-time making jewelry. I love it!”
Debbie: “Being involved in the winter Writing Café was a wonderfully rewarding experience. During the course of the program, the excitement the women had towards this opportunity to learn and grow was palpable. The book that emerged from it, My Dreams, is an acknowledgement that everyone has something worthwhile to say and share.”

Jim: “Since I started volunteering as a tutor at Rosie's Place, I have learned a lot about various communities in Boston I hadn't had much contact with before. I think opportunity gaps and income inequality are major problems and by helping Marie prepare for her high school equivalency math test, I feel good about making a contribution to address these issues.”

Jim and Debbie are just two of an average of 70 teachers and tutors who lend their time and talents in our Women's Education Center. Approximately 320 students each semester will find a full slate of pre-ESOL/literacy, literacy and ESOL classes offered five days a week during mornings, afternoons and evenings. iPad and computer lab time is also scheduled. Tutors are available to improve conversation skills, enhance classroom learning or help with specific needs, such as studying for the citizenship exam. The goal is for guests to not only learn English, but also solidify basic skills and ways to become an active learner and participant in society. We work to give guests the resources and classes they need in order to reach their own goals—whether it’s writing a letter to their child, using email or getting a job.
The Tiernan Fellowship has absolutely made my dreams come true.
“The Tiernan fellowship has absolutely made my dreams come true. It has allowed me, through my project, LEGIT. yoga, to bring the healing and empowering practice of yoga to women survivors of trauma who might not go to classes elsewhere. At the end of one class, a guest wrote, ‘I have PTSD…my mind has a lot of noise in it. This was the first time that my mind was actually quiet.’ For her to feel so safe that she could let all of her guards down and quiet her ‘alarms’—it makes me happy that this is what I’m doing for a living.”

Our annual Kip Tiernan Social Justice Fellowship made Theresa’s yoga classes for our guests possible. Also at Rosie’s Place, the Advocacy department offers numerous weekly groups matched to our guests’ needs. The range of groups include Personal Economic Planning, Domestic Violence and Self-Esteem, Choices in Nutrition, Relapse Prevention, Nurturing/Parenting in Haitian Creole and English and support groups in Spanish and English. These groups are among the wide range of services provided by our Advocacy department. Through more than 1,000 appointments each month, guests meet individually with Advocates for help with housing and employment, legal counsel, wellness care and community outreach services.
“This job is great, mostly because of the environment. I like my co-workers and we know to help each other out. My philosophy at Rosie’s Place is this: Treat guests as if my mom or one of my five sisters or my cousins were here wanting a meal or some help…About half the time I can leave the kitchen and get to walk around the dining room. I introduce myself and say ‘hello’ to everyone. I like checking in and making sure people are OK. When a guest finishes a meal and is full and happy, that’s pure joy to me.”

About a year ago, Abdi joined the Food Programs team, which provides access to vital meals and groceries to hundreds of women each day. When women and their children come to our dining room, they know they can rely on having a nutritious breakfast, lunch and dinner in a warm and inviting space. Our guests also find the dining room is a place to rest, to seek respite from the streets, or to make and visit friends. Last year, we served more than 103,000 meals, often seeing close to 200 women at lunchtime. Our food pantry welcomes an average of 1,900 women each month to “shop” among our shelves. Guests stretch their budgets by taking home 20 to 40 pounds of fresh food and non-perishable items their families prefer and enjoy.
LAUREL GOURVILLE

“When I joined the Wellness Center team several years ago, I was immediately drawn to the culture of positive communication across Rosie’s Place. Guests were consistently greeted in a respectful and caring tone, which is often so different than the hardened responses our guests face on the outside. Rosie’s Place has a power of advocacy that can’t be matched in the city… Our approach with guests is unique, meeting them where they are most comfortable, and we have been fortunate to gain the trust so vital in getting to the best possible solution for their health.”

The Wellness Center is staffed by a collaborative of volunteer medical professionals from Regis College—including nurse practitioner Laurel Gourville—as well as Health Care Without Walls and Boston Healthcare for the Homeless. It is often the only place where many guests will receive medical attention or advice, due to barriers to care for poor people, lack of trust in the medical community or mental health issues that prevent them from seeking help. Through more than 6,000 guest visits last year, staff provided frequent health check-ins, monitored guests’ chronic illness, encouraged wellness with added holistic services, and advocated for appropriate access to other medical providers.

“Rosie’s Place has a power of advocacy that can’t be matched in the city…”
**PROGRAMS AND EXPENDITURES**

**Finance/Administration:** $294,717

**Emergency Shelter:** $760,107
- Twenty-bed shelter where women find respite from the streets while they work with Advocates to identify more permanent solutions.

**Women’s Education:** $907,218
- Free ESOL, literacy and computer courses taught by volunteer teachers and tutors within a familiar and supportive environment.

**Food Programs:** $2,489,239
- Dining Room serves breakfast, lunch and dinner and the food pantry allows guests to "shop" for fresh and non-perishable items themselves.

**Advocacy:** $4,521,554
- One-on-one housing and employment assistance, legal counsel, wellness care, homelessness prevention and other community outreach services. Self-Advocacy services engage and empower guests to become their own best advocates.

**Development:** $1,560,534

**Public Policy:** $252,865
- Education and training to involve our guests in the legislative process.
Rosie’s Place relies solely on private support and does not accept any city, state or federal government funding. In fiscal year 2016, $8,435,656 in operating support was raised. In addition, $2,641,916 was received through in-kind contributions of clothing, food, toiletries and volunteer hours.

Net assets of property, equipment and cash were equal to $19,537,424 at fiscal year end.

Please call the Development Office at 617.442.9322 to request a complete audited financial statement.
In FY2016, Rosie’s Place, with the help of generous donors, made an impact in the lives of 12,000 women in the following ways:

- **We served** 103,000 nutritionally-balanced breakfasts, lunches and dinners to guests and their children.
- **Our food pantry enabled** 1,900 women per month to take home 20-40 pounds of food.
- **Rosie’s Place’s Advocacy staff provided** more than 1,100 appointments with guests each month.
- **Approximately 300 women** stayed in our overnight shelter.
- **Through our Outreach activities,** 95% of guests receiving monthly in-home supports were able to stay housed and break the cycle of homelessness.
- **Our Outreach Van** provided services and support to an average of 400 women per month on the streets of Boston.
- **At our satellite office at Franklin Field public housing development,** more than 1,000 residents received services and participated in Rosie’s Place-led activities.
- **The Women’s Education Center provided** 350 women each semester with free classes and tutoring.
- **Our Legal Program provided** more than 700 consultations with attorneys.
- **We connected with** more than 600 at-risk families with children attending Boston schools through on-site outreach, housing assistance, advocacy and food pantry.
- **Approximately 2,500 volunteers** provided nearly 59,000 hours of service, the equivalent of 29 full-time employees.

Rosie’s Place relies solely on the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations and does not accept any city, state or federal funding. We are proud to ensure that 86 cents of every dollar raised goes directly to essential services for poor and homeless women.
Named in honor of Rosie’s Place founder Kip Tiernan, members of the Founder’s Circle contributed $1,000 or more during the fiscal year. Just as Kip depended on a small group of volunteers and their $250 contribution to open Rosie’s Place in 1974, so do we depend on the consistent generosity and involvement of these individuals to provide help and hope to thousands of women each year. We are very grateful for your support and dedication to our mission.

Designates donors who have contributed $10,000 or more in a single gift.

Designates donors whose support has spanned 10 consecutive fiscal or calendar years at the Founder’s Circle level.

Designates donors who are part of our monthly giving program.

Anonymous (147)
Diane and Henry Abbott
Pamela and Daniel Abemaim
Barbara S. Accetta
Kamesh and Geeta Alifer
George T. Albrecht
Janet and David Aldrich
Susan Alexander and James Gammill
Carolyne E. Alka
The Alitzaduk Family
Ann and Jack Allegreni
Susan Alisy
Chris Anderson
Gail Anderson
Laurie J. Anderson and Thomas M. Sprague
John A. Andrews Charitable Remainder Unitrust
Amy Anthony
Elizabeth and William Armstrong
Pat Artis
Mary Aucoin
Deborah Babson
Joan Batchelder
Steven and Deb Barnes
Stephen Barnett and Janis Hanley
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel P. Bartlett
Yaneer and Naomi Bar-Yam
James and Bobbie Basta
Lisa and John Batten
Elizabeth Baum and William Berman
Deborah and Alan Beck
Nancy and Kevin Beenewkes
Joshua and Anita Beekenstein
Grace Beneniste
Thomas and Christine Berk
Rachel Berke
Marcia and George Bernet
Menia and Shu Bhat
Violette B. Biggs Bevacqua Trust
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Catherine Bird and Jonathan Delgado
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Amy Cuddy and Paul Caster
Alien and Randy Cushing
Erin Daly
Bruce Daniel and Susan Dacy
Ami and William Denoff
Matthew and Anne Deitilo
Robert Davis and Jennifer Jackson
Claudia Davidoff and Joseph Kahen
Lisa and Domenic Delapo
John M. DeCirk
Ana Marti De Garavilla and Paul Hoffman
“Over the many years that I knew Barbara, as a client, friend and sometimes fellow activist, she always had a down-to-earth, roll-up-your-sleeves and make-a-difference practicality. This extended to her love of the house she bought in the 1960s on West Springfield Street in the South End. Although she had deep concerns about the effects of gentrification of her neighborhood, upon her death she intended to have the enormous appreciation in her home’s value benefit two organizations she felt close to. Rosie’s Place was one of them. Barbara knew and greatly admired Kip Tiernan, another practical, roll-up-your-sleeves person. Supporting Kip’s Rosie’s Place, where women help each other re-establish their lives, is so consistent with all that Barbara believed in and worked for.”

As co-executor of Barbara Hoffman’s will, Donald Vaughan of Burns & Levinson facilitated a most generous and unexpected gift to Rosie’s Place from her estate. Planned gifts or charitable bequests such as this one have an enormous and lasting impact on Rosie’s Place, creating a legacy for our guests that will endure for generations. In addition to providing critical financial support for our work, a charitable bequest may also provide the donor with financial benefits including tax savings, reduced capital gains and estate taxes, and release from financial management. A planned gift is not just for those who have wealth or financial expertise but for anyone who wishes to include Rosie’s Place in their personal legacy.
Rosie’s Place is pleased to have the following individuals serving on its Board of Directors for FY2016

Jenaro Cardona-Fox
Christina Gordon
Lynn Kaplan
Nancy Leaming
Michele May
Deborah Pascualano
Diana Pisciotta
Kelly Race
Peter Rosenberg
Isabelle Stillger
Hon. Michelle Wu

Karen and Andrew Wang
Christine Wanie
Cathy and William Waters
Rosalyn M. Watson
Lee Webster
Nila Webster
Risa Weintraub and Mark Schechter
Bernet and Sandra Weinstein
Richard and Sally Weitzen
Tricia Webb
Marty Wengert and Laura Dorfman
Joan Wheeler
Tona and Robert White
Paul and Ann Maureen Wienczko
Jane and Bruce Williams
Kim Williams and Trevor Miller
Edward and Barbara Wilson
Rachel Wilson
Richard Wilson
Abigail Wine and Lance Ramshaw
Dyann and Peter Wirth
Monika Wirtz
Sarah Wiser
Linda Wissensik and William Collatos
Cynthia Griffin Wolff
James and Carol Wolff
Amy Wood
Leila Yassa and David Mendels
Mr. William Yee
Rosemarie Yevich and Francis Driawan
Anders and Mary Jo Youngren
Norman Zakhil and Emma Veseck
Anne P. Zebrowski
Erica Zben
Mary Zocchi
Jonathan M. Zorn
Kenneth C. Zvirblis
“WBUR’s commitment to Rosie’s Place is unique. We support no other nonprofit with an event where the proceeds are designed to underwrite its work. We believe that Rosie’s Place is a worthy partner because we both serve the city and region with a passionate belief in our missions to make life better for our constituents and the city as a whole. We could not be more proud to support Rosie’s Place’s essential mission.”

We could not be more proud to support Rosie’s Place’s essential mission.

Under the direction of WBUR GM Kravetz, the station’s on-air personalities will present their 14th reading of A Christmas Carol this December. Events like this fundraiser, planned and executed by individuals, organizations, community groups and businesses, are an important and valued source of donations for Rosie’s Place. They range from sports tournaments to fashion shows to performances to creative ideas groups develop on their own. These events also are instrumental in raising awareness in the community for our programs and services for poor and homeless women.
ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

Rosie’s Place accepts no funding from the city, state or federal government, therefore we depend on the support of many generous corporations, foundations and civic groups. Our organizational supporters range from religious organizations to corporate employee giving programs to foundation grants. All are vital to our ability to provide a comprehensive range of services to poor and homeless women. The following list represents those who contributed $1,000 or more this past fiscal year. We appreciate your continued generosity and support.

Designates donors whose support has spanned 10 consecutive fiscal or calendar years.

Designates donors who are part of our monthly giving program.
“At Boston Interiors, we sell furniture to very fortunate people every day, but realize that not everybody is in that same place. We felt the need to be part of the very basic requirement of having a home, and being supported in that home. And Rosie’s Place does that. We also believe it’s important to help out in our own backyard so we wanted to embrace a local organization doing work with housing, just as the community has embraced us as a local business. We have seen and heard a lot about the success of Rosie’s Place guests through their work, and we wanted to be a small part of that, and do our fair share to help.”

Rosie’s Place is grateful to have received the sustained support of so many members of the business community over our 42-year history. Our partnerships with the corporate sector enable us to continue to provide a greater number of programs and services to a growing number of women in need. Support from CEO Lucas of Boston Interiors and many other local businesses can include corporate and charitable foundation grants and workplace giving programs, business expertise, in-kind donations and volunteer service. In many cases, when employees donate money or time, corporations either match or support these donations, thus increasing the benefit of the gift. Rosie’s Place greatly appreciates this confidence in our work.
Our mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that helps poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.