Guadalupe’s children are her world. Everything she does, everything she strives for, is to make a happy life for her boys—Andrew, 14 and Gianluca, 6. But, so often, taking care of her family as a single mother feels like an uphill battle. Just when she’d get ahead, there would be a setback. This year, with the support of Rosie’s Place, she has summoned the resolve to move toward long-term stability and independence.

Lupita, as she is known, first came to Rosie’s Place in 2012. She was pregnant with Gianluca and about to lose her apartment after a breakup with his father. Our housing specialist helped to identify and secure housing while she stayed with both children in a family shelter. Six months later, she had found a subsidized apartment in Hyde Park, a cheery home with a yard she still lives in today.

Lupita, who does not have a high school diploma, was eager to return to work. Our career counselor assisted in her job search and we brightened the holiday season with gifts for her children. With no family nearby and no child support, Lupita continued to balance work, a growing number of bills and caring for her sons the best she could.

“My boys drive me forward,” Lupita says. “I try to give them what I can and work to make every day special. They are both so sweet and lovely.”

We reconnected with Lupita a few years after her initial visits when her housing management company reached out to our Advocacy department to help her with unpaid rent. She had fallen behind when she lost her daycare placement for Gianluca and had to pay hourly babysitters while she worked. We were able to get her up-to-date with payments and also helped settle her electricity arrears. At this time, we paired Lupita with one of our stabilization workers, who visited her monthly at home to ensure that she would be able to retain her housing. We assisted her with setting up monthly rent and utility payment plans and worked with her to create a budget she could adhere to.

It’s been six years since we first met Lupita and she says, “Rosie’s Place still has my back.” We still check in with her and her landlord to be sure her housing is secure. There have been some tough months, but we can help her stay on track and avoid the most severe consequences. We were there for her last summer when her complex had a bedbug infestation and we were able to replace all the beds, bedding and wooden furniture she had to throw out.

With two growing boys, clothing and sneakers don’t last long and there’s rarely money for fun like a trip to the movies or dinner out. Lupita says she knows the importance of prioritizing.

“I want to pay all my bills on time and still have some extra for the kids,” she says. “I stress out about money always but I do have a plan I can follow.”

As she has done time and time again, Lupita is looking toward a brighter new year. A naturalized citizen, she is excited to bring her mother, whom she hasn’t seen in seven years, here from the Dominican Republic in the spring. With her mother watching the boys, Lupita will be able to work more hours and know that her teenager Andrew is safe at home. She will start studying to obtain her GED. She has talked with her stabilization worker about using this year’s tax refund to erase lingering debt. Her greatest wish is to be independent.

“Rosie’s Place is my angel. They make me and my kids happy with all their help. I am so glad and thankful they are there when I need them but, in the end, it’s up to me. They make me believe I can do it!”

Lupita’s story is just one of so many women considered “working poor” who turn to Rosie’s Place when times get tough. Like Lupita, they may come with their children for a meal or a trip to our food pantry. Or they may be seeking relief from the worry of overdue rent and utility bills. Or they may need help with legal matters. For a great number of single moms and other guests we serve, financial stability is fragile and homelessness may be just one paycheck away.
**OUR PRESIDENT REFLECTS ON HER TIME AT ROSIE’S PLACE**

**Dear Friend:**

It is a privilege to work in a community that aims to address the needs of people living on the margins. Each day, we serve women who have no place to turn. Thanks to a strong and loving network of volunteers, supporters and staff, Rosie’s Place is able to provide immediate service to women who struggle from day to day. Through my work at Rosie’s Place, I’ve learned that the women and children affected by poverty and homelessness are, in truth, more like me and my family than different. And I’ve learned that my life is infinitely enriched by knowing the women of Rosie’s Place.

At Rosie’s Place, our mission is to not only provide somewhere to go, but a community to live among. We not only watch out for a woman’s physical and mental health, but her emotional and spiritual well-being, too. We serve meals and hold English classes. We offer shelter and women move into new housing. We work hard to understand the despair of a homeless mom told that she and her children don’t qualify for state-sponsored shelter, or the loneliness of a housebound woman waiting for a visit from a volunteer. Every day we learn by creating community, we create the chance for transformation.

For two decades, it’s been my privilege to tell you about the efforts of our community to make life a little better for women who face hunger, homelessness, ill health, isolation and sadness. I know that our daily work is stronger than your help and support. Because you are important to us, I want to let you know that I will be stepping down as president on February 1. Rosie’s Place is a strong, stable and responsive organization and I am confident it will remain or go as our tremendous leadership board and hard-working Board move forward. You will be hearing more in the coming months about this new phase of growth. What will never change at Rosie’s Place is our commitment to meeting the needs of our guests.

Many times I’m asked what Kip, our founder, would have thought about the world we are living in today. What would she say about toddlers and children being separated from their parents at the border? What would she say about the thousands of women who have cried “me too” or the thousands of women going to Congress? What would she say about a family shelter system that declines to serve those homeless families that it deems homeless, but not needy? Or a mental health system that declines to serve mentally ill women it deems not suicidal enough?

While Chelsea Flanagan noted that the norms might have changed, but right and wrong haven’t. It’s a privilege to work in a community which not only has to do the right thing but is brave enough to say what is right. Rosie’s Place has always had be two aims in equal measure: to provide direct assistance to women who are unfed, or unsheltered, or unseen, and to provide a voice for justice—no matter what. Every one of our 120 staff take on that role—whatever that role is—to achieve justice in the world. Leaving that duty to another person—even someone as powerful and strong as Kip—means we are not following by the spirit of Rosie’s Place. It is up to each of us to pursue justice and we’ll find it easiest to do in the company of friends.

I am grateful to have had your support and friendship over the years. Your continued generosity allows us to be more than a shelter: a place of hope and second chances for our guests. Thank you.

With hope,

Sue Marsh

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**ROSIE’S PLACE NEWS** is published three times a year to inform our friends about activities and events taking place throughout the Rosie’s Place community. **OUR MISSION** is to provide a safe and nurturing environment to help poor and homeless women maintain their dignity, seek opportunity, and find security in their lives.

President: Sue Marsh

**Vice President of External Relations:** Leomar Mosca

**Director of Communications:** Editor Michelle Chauvee

Design: Collette O’Hall

We’d love to hear from you! Please contact us with your comments at 617.318.0210.

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**5 WAYS TO GIVE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

**1. COLLECT NEEDED HOLIDAY ITEMS**

Coordinate a drive with your workplace, school or family to collect holiday gifts for our guests. For more information, visit rosiesplace.org/drives. Our most-needed items include:

- $25 gift cards (CVS, Walgreens, Target, Payless, Old Navy)
- Bath and body gift sets with lotion, body wash and body spray (from stores such as Bath & Body Works)
- Pajamas and bathrobes
- Slippers
- Sets of hats, scarves and gloves
- Throws and blankets
- Hooded sweatshirts

**2. CATER A MEAL IN OUR DINING ROOM**

Gather a group of up to 10 coworkers or friends to prepare and serve a meal for 150 to 200 women. Underwrite the $350 cost for the entire meal by splitting the donation among your group or by finding a sponsor (such as your employer or place of worship) to support you. Contact volunteer@rosiesplace.org to get started.

**3. SEND CUSTOMIZED HOLIDAY CARDS**

Support Rosie’s Place by ordering our 10-packs ($18), variety packs ($24) and custom orders of 50+ cards, available in nine classic Boston scenes and whimsical winter illustrations. We are offering a new image this year, Newbury Street Snowfall by acclaimed local artist Sam Vokey. Visit our website for custom cards, rosiesplace.fenwayprint.com, for ordering that is fast and easy. View designs and order at rosiesplace.org/holidaycards.

**4. BENEFIT ROSIE’S PLACE WITH AN EVENT**

Consider making Rosie’s Place the beneficiary of your community event or holiday gathering. Check out our Do-It-Yourself Event info at rosiesplace.org/give/otherways/give or contact moliver@rosiesplace.org.

**5. DONATE TO ROSIE’S PLACE**

Visit rosiesplace.org/give to support our vital programs and services for 12,000 women each year with a monthly donation or one-time gift that supports our work year-round.

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**QUOTABLE**

"Kip had a gift for words which she conveyed with hope with faith and with great, great fury. But as we all know, Kip was not about words alone. Her call to action to help poor and homeless people was matched by her tireless personal efforts to help all those in need. Great leaders teach. Great leaders inspire action. The biggest lesson I learned from Kip was that one person—just one person—can make a difference in the world, in our cities, in our communities."

Isabelle Stilger, member of the Rosie’s Place Board of Directors, remembers our founder Kip Tiernan at the dedication of her memorial in Back Bay on October 6.

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**5 WAYS TO COMMIT TO COMFORT SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU!**

- **NEEDED HOLIDAY ITEMS**
  - Hooded sweatshirts
  - Throws and blankets
  - $25 gift cards (CVS, Walgreens, Target, Payless, Old Navy)
  - Bath and body gift sets with lotion, body wash and body spray (from stores such as Bath & Body Works)
  - Pajamas and bathrobes
  - Slippers
  - Sets of hats, scarves and gloves
  - Throws and blankets
  - $350 cost for the entire meal by splitting the donation among your group or by finding a sponsor (such as your employer or place of worship) to support you. Contact volunteer@rosiesplace.org to get started.

**MERCEDES GIROD**

* "We don't always get to choose where we call home, especially when we are vulnerable and desperate... Sometimes home is only borders and walls and gates and women move into new housing. We work hard to understand the despair of a homeless mom told that she and her children don't qualify for state-sponsored shelter, or the loneliness of a housebound woman waiting for a visit from a volunteer. Every day we learn by creating community, we create the chance for transformation." — Isabelle Stilger

**QUOTABLE**

"I have become a much stronger, kinder, and more generous person through my work at Rosie’s Place. I’ve always been interested in doing nonprofit work, and since I began studying anthropology, I have really wanted to do more to help women and women of color. I jumped at the chance to finally do something." — Former Rosie’s Place intern Mercedes Girona, as quoted in the article "Making a Difference in Women’s Lives," featured on the Hamilton College blog.

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**ROSEBERRY/domestic violence prevention beneficiary to support our vital programs and services for 12,000 women each year with a monthly donation or one-time gift that supports our work year-round.**

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Community of FRIENDS

Taking Action at Rosie’s Place

The 2017-2018 legislative session saw wins and losses for our public policy priorities. We advocated for a higher minimum wage and a strong family leave package, collecting thousands of signatures on the ballot measures which were signed into law at the end of the session. We also increased awareness of the SNAP Gap and advocated for reform, including the creation of a common application to receive public benefits. We supported the Fair Share Amendment, which would lessen the burden of taxes on the poor, and though it didn’t make it to the ballot this year, we will continue to fight for policies that improve the lives of our guests.

In the final hours of the FY19 budget negotiations, the budget amendment to Lift the Cap on Families was removed in the conference committee. We supported the Safe Communities Act, which would lessen the burden of taxes on the poor, and though it didn’t make it to the ballot this year, we will continue to fight for policies that improve the lives of our guests.

With our guests in mind, we will support the following priorities in the 2019-2020 legislative years:

• Dental Access (2017-18 Session: S.1169/H.4454) – Together with Health Care for All, we will fight to increase dental care access for poor people by expanding the number of service providers that accept MassHealth across the commonwealth.

• Closing SNAP Gap (2017-18 Session: S.612/H.101) – Together with the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute and the SNAP Coalition, we will fight to combine applications to improve access, create further stabilization and reduce wasted resources.

• Safe Space to Sleep (2017-18 Session: H.650) – Together with the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, we will fight to ensure emergency shelter must be available with urgency upon a person becoming homeless.

• Budget Line Items - Budgets are more than just financial allocations, they are moral documents that tell society what we value and by how much. Therefore, we will fight to retain and increase funding for housing and food access line items.

Check this space going forward for news about our Public Policy efforts and ways you can get involved. To learn more, please visit rosiesplace.org/publicpolicy.

In addition to having staff volunteer in our Dining Room, Homebase Insurance recently awarded Rosie’s Place a $35,000 grant and hosted a Lunch and Learn event at their offices so employees could hear more about our work and how they can help us serve poor and homeless women in Boston.

Our annual Funny Women...Serious Business luncheon was another record-breaker, raising $550,000–16% more than last year—thanks to our generous friends! We exceeded our goal because of the 1,800 attendees, table hosts and sponsors who supported us on October 16 at our new venue, the Boston Convention and Exposition Center. Many thanks to Headlining Sponsor Bank of America, Brightshere, Christina and Michael Gordon, Linda and Jay Hooley, J. Jill, Jane and Joe Kringdon, Anne Kubik and Michael Krupka, Michele May and David Walt and Deb and Mark Pasculano and Presenting Centerpiece Sponsor Neiman Marcus. The women who brought the program and videos of guest stories to He arts, from left, Jaidenm Thompson, 7 News WHDH/MWII, Kate Merrit, WBZ-TV/CBS Boston; featured speaker author Edwidge Danticat; co-emcee Susan Warnick; Rosie’s Place President Sue Marsh; co-emcee Karen Holms Ward, WCVB; Vanessa Welch, Boston 25 News; and Lataliai Edwards, NBC Boston. Massachusett First Lady Laura Baker and Mayor of Boston Marty Walsh joined in celebrating Rosie’s Place.

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The installation, which took place only a few weeks earlier, on September 15, was the culmination of more than six years of planning. At dawn that day, a crane lowered the arch section onto the base, where it was then secured and ready for the finish work. The sculpture was designed by Boston architects Ceruzzi & Associates, Inc. and fabricated by Whetstone Workshop, East Providence, and installed by Chapman Construction Design. The memorial was underwritten entirely through public and in-kind donations, including Brown Rudnick, City of Boston’s Edward Ingersoll Browne Fund, Massachusetts Housing Federation, George B. Henderson Foundation, Joan and Barry Neiman, Pauline and Edward E. Pincus Fund, and the Massachusetts General Hospital Foundation, among others.

The weather cooperated on Saturday, October 6 for the long-awaited dedication of the Kip Tiernan Memorial. The celebration began with a family-friendly street fair, which closed down the block of Dartmouth Street where the sculpture sits, between Boylston and Newbury Streets. Street performances and food trucks lined the street while hundreds of adults and children passed through to view the memorial and read Kip’s words on the columns that support the three steel arches.

As Rev. June Cooper of Old South Church began the dedication with a blessing, the sun burst through the clouds and bubbles floated behind the stage, a whimsical moment that evoked Kip’s spirit. Tributes and memories were offered by Rosie’s Place President Sue Marsh, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, major project funder Larry Fish (in absentia), Rosie’s Place Board member Isabelle Stilger (see Quotable), Kip’s spouse Donna Pompomino (in photo below) and longtime friend and partner Fran Froehlich. Kip Tiernan was remembered as a pioneer, a fighter, a champion of poor and vulnerable people, a woman who changed countless lives.

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In contemplating the lasting impact of the Kip Tiernan Memorial, Sue Marsh said: "It is our hope that through this memorial, viewers will be moved to reflect upon the call for a just world, and will consider their own role in it. If we leave the work to achieve justice to others – even to someone as powerful and capable as Kip – then we are not abiding by the spirit of this memorial. It is up to each of us to pursue justice, even if it as Kip said, that road is easiest when traveled in the company of friends."
The winter months are upon us and the need for warm clothing and other essentials continues to grow. Whether spending long days—and for many, nights—outside or visiting our food pantry and dining room, our guests know they can turn to us in times of need. And we, in turn, are grateful that we can count on you to help us provide them with the items below:

- Hats, scarves, mittens and gloves
- New underwear and socks
- Coats and jackets, especially larger sizes
- Non-perishable food, especially peanut butter, tuna and rice
- Full and travel-size toiletries
- Holiday Wish List items

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY NOW AND ALL YEAR THROUGH!

Holiday Wish List

- $25 gift cards (CVS, Walgreens, Target, Payless, Old Navy)
- Bath and body gift sets with lotion, body wash and body spray (from stores such as Bath & Body Works)
- Pajamas and bathrobes
- Slippers
- Sets of hats, scarves and gloves
- Throws and blankets
- Hooded sweatshirts

Holiday time offers the ideal opportunity to support Rosie’s Place with the purchase of beautiful and unique jewelry and gift items made by our guests. We’re sure you’ll find something for everyone on your list from our wide selection of necklaces, earrings and bracelets. You can also choose from an array of tree ornaments and key chains crafted with crystal beads as well as different styles of bookmarks.

We are featuring a new and quickly-popular necklace this season. Our Plume Necklace projects elegance and, in a variety of colors and metals, is just right for both casual and dressier attire. The necklace is crafted from bright, glass feather-shaped beads, accented by shiny gold- or silver-plated discs and chain. It measures 23” in total length, with an easy to use hook and loop clasp. Gold and silver versions are available in a rainbow of rich colors that are perfect for the holiday season and beyond: Ruby red, emerald green, purple amethyst, ocean blue, light green, golden topaz, and black.

And, as always, your gift helps underwrite vital programs and services for 12,000 a year at Rosie’s Place.

Order Today and Make a Difference!

Online: rosiesplace.org/shop
Phone: Heather Wang at 617.318.0272
In Person: 47 Thorndike St., B level, Boston
Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by appointment

For questions or more information, contact Heather at hwang@rosiesplace.org.

WBUR’s A Christmas Carol
Monday, December 17, 7:00PM
Omnip Parker House, Boston
This year marks the 16th anniversary of WBUR 90.9 FM’s reading of the Charles Dickens’ classic, A Christmas Carol. You will hear your favorite WBUR personalities at Boston’s historic Omni Parker House, the site of Dickens’ first reading, bring this timeless tale to life. Tickets are $65 and all proceeds benefit Rosie’s Place. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit rosiesplace.org/wbur.

Safe & Sound Gala
Wednesday, May 8, 2019
Cyclorama at Boston Center for the Arts
Please be our guest for a special evening of food, friends and philanthropy at our annual Safe & Sound gala. Enjoy delectable cuisine prepared and served by celebrity chefs with fine wine pairings—and the chance to win unique insider-only auction packages. Sponsorships are available and tickets begin at $500. For more information, please contact Kristen Leonard at 617.318.0232 or kleonard@rosiesplace.org.

LOOK GOOD, DO WELL FOR ROSIE’S PLACE

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