

**Our Food Programs**

Rosie’s Place’s Dining Room serves more than 100,000 hearty and healthy meals each year. And every month, our Food Pantry welcomes almost 1,800 guests. Our Food Programs are longstanding nutritional and financial supplements which our guests and their children rely on every day—365 days per year.

**About Rosie’s Place\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Founded by Kip Tiernan in 1974, Rosie’s Place is the first emergency shelter for women in the United States. Our mission is to provide a safe and secure environment for poor and homeless women to maintain their dignity, seek opportunity and find security in their lives.

**When a woman comes to Rosie’s Place in need we know that she is more than
her circumstances and challenges. We know she deserves a chance.
And at Rosie’s Place we give her that—and much more.**

A new visitor to Rosie’s Place soon learns that we’re more than a shelter. We’re a sanctuary offering emergency services like hot showers, meals and groceries. We’re an Outreach Van offering the services of Rosie’s Place to women on the streets. We’re a steppingstone offering free ESOL, Literacy and Technology classes in our Women’s Education Center. Through our Advocacy, Self-Advocacy, Public Policy and Arts programs, we offer women support and empowerment opportunities. Our Homelessness Prevention and Community Heath Outreach programs help women remain housed, healthy and stable. While our attorneys, mental health workers, job search and housing search specialists offer expert help to women with more long-term needs.

Rosie’s Place’s ability to provide services in its own unique way relies on the fact that we only accept private donations. We do not receive any support from the city, state, or federal governments, nor from the United Way.

**The Need\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Since the very beginning, Rosie’s Place has been a constant and reliable resource for poor and homeless women in Massachusetts. All of our guests are poor—some are homeless, while many others work and live in housing but simply can’t make ends meet. Each woman has her own unique story and challenges. The obstacles facing our guests can be overwhelming. Consider the following:

* More than 700,000 people in MA struggle with food insecurity—a number almost 40% higher than it was prior to the recession, almost 80% higher than it was at the beginning of the last decade. (Status Report on Hunger in MA, Project Bread, 2013)
* Poor health is closely associated with homelessness. For families struggling to pay the rent, a serious illness or disability can start a downward spiral into homelessness, beginning with a lost job, depletion of savings to pay for care, and eventual eviction. (National Coalition for the Homeless, August 2008)
* The poverty rate in MA is the highest it’s been since 1960. The inflation-adjusted wages of the lowest-paid workers haven’t budged in decades. Income inequality in the state has become greater than in the nation as a whole. (Boston Globe, November 10, 2014, “Poverty Rate in MA Highest Since 1960”)
* The number of individuals experiencing homelessness in MA has more than doubled since 1990. (MA Coalition for the Homeless)

**Rosie’s Place’s Food Programs\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Poor and homeless women don’t wonder *What will I have for lunch today?* Instead, they ask themselves, *Will* *I eat today? Can I afford to eat today?*** For our guests, sacrifice and suffering is routine. When it comes to paying for necessities such as rent, utilities, food or medication, it’s not a matter of when or how much. It’s a question of which one. Which one can I make do without? And more often than not, hunger is endured in order to stay housed or to pay a utility bill. Serving a nutritious lunch and dinner every day, and offering assistance with groceries—the Food Programs at Rosie’s Place provide critical healthy meals and groceries to thousands of poor and homeless women and their children each year.

Our welcoming **Dining Room** serves a tasty and nourishing meal—365 days a year—to about 300 women and their children each day. **This year, Rosie’s Place’s Dining Room anticipates serving more than 100,000 nutritionally balanced meals.**When poor women *are* able to afford food—nutritional value is usually overridden by cost. Healthy choices are often more expensive. We’re proud to report that almost every single one of the meals we serve in our Dining Room includes: 1 serving of fruit, 2 servings of vegetables, is high in fiber and low in both sodium and fat.

**Rosie’s Place Groceries**
Because many of our guests work during our Dining Room’s meal times and/or have families who are hungry too, we offer Rosie’s Place Groceries. Here again, we make every effort to provide healthy and fresh food to our guests as well as nutritional recipes and fact sheets. **Through this program, we welcome an average of 1,800 women each month into our pantry to “shop” among our shelves, choosing foods that their families prefer and enjoy.**

**The Fresh Food Initiative**

Now in its fifth year, the Fresh Food Initiative has been an extremely successful effort to incorporate more fresh fruits and vegetables into the meals we serve. Rosie’s Place has partnered with a number of local farms throughout the growing season to donate fresh produce for our guests to enjoy. The items are picked up on a weekly basis by a group of dedicated volunteers or are delivered directly to Rosie’s Place by the farm.

Our Dining Room serves salad and soup at every meal and both are made with fresh vegetables, as opposed to canned. This donated produce is also included in meals as appetizers and/or side dishes. In addition, the fruits and vegetables are offered in our Groceries program. It is very often, the only fresh produce our guests and their families bring into their homes.

This summer, Rosie’s Place partnered with: Brookwood Farm, Hutchins Farm, Dover Farm, the Food Project, Gaining Ground, Jamaica Plain Farmers’ Market, Lexington Famers’ Market, Moose Hill Community Farm, Russell Orchard and Volante Farm as well as organizations such as Earthworks, Boston Area Gleaners and Lovin’ Spoonfuls. **We expect to receive more than $30,000 worth of fresh produce donations.**

**Catering Program**

Like our Farm Initiative,another cost-saving and community building effort underway at Rosie’s Place is our Catering Program.Our Volunteer Services department recruits and oversees groups of volunteers who cater a lunch or dinner in our Dining Room. Groups can cater a meal by making a donation to underwrite the cost of the meal and then prepare the meal with our help in our kitchen—and serve it restaurant-style to our guests. As the impressive numbers on page one attest, the majority of our lunches and dinners were catered in the past year. This innovative program saves Rosie’s Place a significant of money and staff time. Moreover, it allows people to come in and be a part of the Rosie’s Place community for a lunch or dinner shift and often, for years to come. We continually receive great feedback about this volunteer opportunity which builds teamwork and community while serving others.

In FY15, we raised more than$155,000 through our Catering Program. We are working to grow this innovative program in order to raise even more funds in FY16.

**Nutrition and Wellness**

At Rosie’s Place we don’t just feed our guests, we nourish them with thoughtful meals and groceries high in both nutrition and taste. Our menus are low in fat, calories and sodium but full of fruits, vegetables and vitamins. We also take care to offer our guests healthy recipes and information about nutrition and wellness. Our Dining Room frequently has bulletin boards with colorful nutritional information and the nurses of our Wellness Center offer workshops on healthy eating and general wellness topics throughout the year. Further, healthy recipes are distributed along with food in our Groceries Program.

By welcoming our guests unconditionally— treating our guests with dignity—offering them meals and groceries chosen with their health and satisfaction in mind—and resources to help them lead a healthier lifestyle—we are showing our guests that this is how they, and all of us should be treated.

**Leadership\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Sue Marsh has served as the Executive Director of Rosie’s Place since 1998.** In her role, she oversees a diverse array of programs serving more than 1,000 homeless and nearly homeless women each month. Her responsibilities include ensuring a quality environment that is sensitive to the needs of the guests, supervising senior staff, directing the annual budget process and annual and capital fund-raising strategies, promoting community awareness, providing leadership in the community as an advocate, and promoting solutions to homelessness and hunger. Prior to joining Rosie’s Place, Ms. Marsh was the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, the first statewide Coalition for the Homeless in the nation. She is also Commissioner on the Supreme Judicial Court’s Access to Justice Commission. Ms. Marsh holds a B.A. from Bowdoin College and completed a Doctoral program in political science at Boston University.

**Financial Summary\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Rosie’s Place’s ability to provide services in its own unique way relies on the fact that we depend solely on private donations. We do not accept any support from the city, state, or federal governments, nor from the United Way.** Our donors are individuals – 65%, foundations – 14%, corporations – 14%, estates – 6%, and religious organizations, educational institutions and other special groups – 1%. We are proud that we consistently manage our expenses so that 88 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to the poor and homeless women who need our services. This year our operating budget is $8 million, which does not include an estimated $2 million Rosie’s Place receives in in-kind goods and services.