

# INSIDE Rogerson

Innovative Solutions in Housing and Health Services since 1860

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## Aging with Dignity: Rogerson Changes Lives

Rogerson depends on the generosity of donors to fulfill our mission of changing the lives of elders in need. We are grateful for the commitment of our philanthropic community. When given a safe, secure home many age and grow and give back so much to the community. Rogerson sees lives changing every day, here are a few stories we're proud to share with you:

### Joanne's Story:

Joanne, an 87-year-old widow and Rogerson resident, is a longtime community activist in Boston. Originally a Licensed Practical Nurse and working parent in Boston, Joanne staved off losing her family home when the extreme cost of medical treatments not

covered by insurance came due after her husband died of prostate cancer. Joanne sold her family home, moved into Rogerson's cooperative housing, and later into one of Rogerson's low-income units.

Throughout her career, as well as since retiring, Joanne has fought tirelessly for the safety and wellbeing of elders in Boston's Mattapan and Roslindale neighborhoods. Joanne co-founded the Multi Cultural Coalition on Aging to support "Generations Aging Together in Body, Mind, and Spirit." In recognition of her contributions, Joanne was honored this October with the National LeadingAge Words from the Wise Award at the annual conference in Philadelphia.

Joanne is an active resident and integral member of the Roslindale community. She also exercises regularly in Rogerson's onsite Fitness First program.

Joanne says of her life today, "My older age has truly been wonderful. Rogerson gave me a very special place to live and that has allowed me to do my work without worry. I'm incredibly busy serving others and doing what's needed to make it better for other elders. I love my life today and count every blessing."

### Angie's Story:

Many years before arriving at Rogerson's doorstep, Angie fled an abusive husband. Her undiagnosed mental illness and PTSD led to addiction and homelessness. The cycle of shame and abuse perpetuated even in her homelessness and it was only after she found an organization that offered her refuge that she began a journey of recovery.

Angie came to Rogerson 3 years ago after nearly a decade of being homeless. She went from sleeping in a shelter to having a home in one of Boston's best neighborhoods. Angie describes that time, "With a place to live, I had the roots I needed to really blossom. I have an incredible life today. I have a relationship with my kids and nine grandchildren and I have an incredible community here, in



*Angie, formerly homeless, now lives at Rogerson's Beacon House and is an active member of the community.*

this beautiful building as well as in the neighborhood. I am a good neighbor and have many true friends here. After volunteering at the Beacon House reception desk for a few years, I was able to turn the skills I learned into a part time job for a local business. I love myself today and I love my life. I'm treated with dignity and respect here and it's taught me how to be my best self in the world."



*Walter Ramos, Rogerson's President & CEO, joins Joanne Prince, Rogerson resident, on stage at the LeadingAge conference in Philadelphia, where Joanne received a national award for her work.*

# Rogerson to Honor Brit d'Arbeloff at Welcome Home

**B**rit d'Arbeloff is one of those extraordinary people we all hope to be compared to. She's a celebrated scientist, academic leader, champion of women, education and arts, a mother, a grandmother, a friend. And luckily for Boston, the d'Arbeloff family's life experiences have been broad and varied, so while their philanthropic impact is seen – and felt – most visibly in academic settings, their involvement elsewhere runs deep as well.

For Rogerson Communities board chair Brit d'Arbeloff, philanthropy is simple: a connection to her own life strikes a chord and helps to direct her energy. And she has had first-hand experience negotiating the maze of elder options, taking it to an extreme level with four very dear relatives advancing to late age at the same time. Unfortunately, the right options just weren't there for her family. Long after that life chapter was over, Brit remains frustrated with the elder care system as a whole.

Rogerson Communities was a revelation for Brit.

“Rogerson understands how you would want to live the last years of your life. They respect you as a person, and as a human being.” Brit and her late husband Alex have been major donors to Rogerson for nearly two decades. Introduced to the organization by close friends Sam and Paula Thier, Brit was immediately struck by the personal, dignified approach Rogerson takes to late life.

Aging is universal, and unavoidable, and Brit sees a real need in the future for what Rogerson provides. “Everybody gets old,” she says. “And Rogerson is about people, people who need a place to live with support that makes sense.”

Rogerson will be honoring Brit d'Arbeloff for her extraordinary community service with the Charles E. Rogerson Award on May 14, 2019, when she will join the ranks of many prestigious honorees and be recognized for a lifetime of leadership and philanthropy.



*Brit d'Arbeloff, Chair of Rogerson's Board of Directors, scientist, and philanthropist.*

# WELL HOME

**Save The Date: May 14, 2019 from 6-9 PM**  
BOSTON'S CYCLORAMA  
Tremont Street, Boston