

## Walter J. Ramos, Rogerson's New President, and the Work at Hand

Rogerson is grateful for the solid foundation built by Jamie Seagle, Rogerson's President Emeritus, as we welcome the leadership of Walter J. Ramos, J.D., Rogerson's new President & CEO. In the past quarter Walter has been deeply immersed in details about facilities, programs, staff, residents, budgets, historic record, and strategic planning. With no stone left unturned, Walter, in partnership with senior management, has begun the important work of furthering Rogerson's legacy of providing critical housing and health services for greater Boston's elders.

Ramos' background – a balance of healthcare administration, housing policy, and government planning – are providing the fuel for moving Rogerson forward. For more than 20 years Walter has worked in areas of finance, operations, human resources, labor relations, property



During a recent Beacon House Board meeting and tour, Walter Ramos met with 91 year old John Stanton, a renowned Boston Artist and Beacon House resident.

management, major construction and renovation, and contract, vendor and grants management. He has helped organizations provide excellent clinical care, led advocacy initiatives, worked alongside policy makers on housing issues, and driven numerous

successful public health initiatives for the betterment of Boston's low and moderate-income community, especially for immigrant and non-English speaking people.

Walter's life's work has included helping low-income men and women with health challenges have the quality of life and care they deserve. Walter recalls of his early career, "When I worked alongside Senator Kennedy he used to say, *A person's health should never depend on the person's wealth.*" Walter adds, "The work that Rogerson does and has done for generations is both honorable and invaluable in meeting the critical needs of elders aging in community. I am excited and honored to lead Rogerson's tremendous team and further build on a powerful legacy of providing affordable housing and healthcare to greater Boston's elders."

## Rogerson's Important Partnerships Provide Care

Rogerson is proud to announce a partnership with Gillette, the newest sponsor of Rogerson's adult day health programs.

Gillette has taken a revolutionary turn with its creation of the Treo assisted shaver, the first ever razor designed solely for assisted shaving. Gillette's values, as demonstrated in a powerful, yet tender, short promotional film about a son



Rogerson's Welcome Home 2018 Gala highlighted Gillette's sponsorship of Rogerson's Adult Day Health Programs.

supporting his father, directly complement Rogerson's own values. "Handle with Care" – together with dignity and respect – reflects Rogerson's commitment to enabling elders to continue living at home, where they most want to be.

Thank you, Gillette, for your generous sponsorship of Rogerson's adult day health programs.

# Rogerson Remembers Mary J. Kakas



Mary J. Kakas, Rogerson Board member and 2005 Charles E. Rogerson Award honoree

*“Mary saw things. She saw things sometimes in spite of what people projected. And I know that is a gift. She saw something special in all of us and even though we didn’t believe it entirely ourselves, it was like she could convince us it was true. And that is a magic potion in my opinion. Life springs from otherwise hardened, dark places when someone has the ability to say words that give us the idea, the notion, the inclination to believe that maybe we are special. And Mary did that on a regular basis.”*

**Christy Cashman, dear friend of Mary, spoke these words at Mary’s Celebration of Life**



James F. Seagle, Jr., Rogerson’s President Emeritus, Kelly and Paul Verrochi, and Mary Kakas



Mary Kakas and her sons, Will Berkeley and Joe Berkeley.

*“What Mary (Mother) did on the tennis court, she did in life, overachieving every step of the way. She was not a business person, but she became the CEO of the company where she worked. She was not a doctor, but she healed a lot of people through her work as a fundraiser. She was not a counselor, but she brought a lot of comfort to the families of Mass 9/11. She was not a coach, but she brought joy to inner city kids through her work for Tenacity. She was not a preacher, but she lived the words from the Book of Luke, to whomsoever much is given, much shall be required.”*

**Joe and Will Berkeley, Mary’s sons, remembering their mother**

It is with sadness that the Rogerson family says goodbye to Mary J. Kakas who passed away this spring. In 2005, Rogerson honored Mary with the Charles E. Rogerson Award for Community Service, an acknowledgement of her tremendous long-standing commitment to the greater Boston community. Mary then joined Rogerson’s Board of Directors and served for over a decade with incredible passion, determination, energy, and flair. Indeed, among the many beautiful qualities Mary brought to the diverse communities she supported, a glamorous sense of style came with every entrance, a luminous energy shone from her very presence, and an unquestionable legacy remained in her parting.

Mary heartedly supported the ingenuity and spirit of change that Rogerson has long brought to how elders are cared for in our community. In fact, she embodied all Rogerson does to support aging with dignity, respect, and an unending commitment to supports needed to live each and every day fully. Mary did that, she lived that, and she taught that. She will surely be missed by all of us at Rogerson, as well as in the greater world she touched. But even more than that, she’ll be long remembered. She was the change she wished to see in the world. We truly thank you, Mary, with all of our hearts.



Mary Kakas last attended Welcome Home in 2017 where Secretary Kerry joined her on the roster of honorees