



# Touchpoints

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Issue #64

## Compassion Scholars Learn Importance of Compassion

We're pleased to share that we recently concluded the first year of our Compassion Scholars Program. This new program is designed to introduce students in various healthcare disciplines to the positive impact of compassion on patients and their families, caregivers, teams and organizations.

**"This program has taught me how to work compassion into my nursing care. It is incredible that by doing so I get a totally different outcome,"** says Maureen Villars, a student at the UMass Graduate School of Nursing.

The program pairs students with mentors to create a network of ambassadors, faculty, and leaders who will work to create cultures of compassion in health professional education and in clinical practice.

"This program has enabled me to understand the importance of being with the patient fully," says Jonathan Gerbode-Grant, a student at the Simmons College School of Nursing; **"I have learned that showing compassion to others is important, but being able to practice self-compassion is important too. It is okay to be imperfect."**

This program was conducted in partnership with the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and with support from the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation and Drs. Brad and Andrea Buchbinder.

[View Photos from the Reception](#)

## Compassion in Action Webinar: Stories of Compassion



Missed last month's webinar? You can now view "Stories of Compassion: Caring for People Experiencing Homelessness" presented by **Gerry Mullin, RN**, and **Roseanna Means, MD**. All of our recorded Compassion in Action webinars are available on our [past webinars page](#).

[Watch the Webinar](#)

## Caring for the Smallest Victims



"When we first started taking care of them, it was hard not to judge and it was hard to not be frustrated," says Shannon, a pediatric nurse.

When her hospital changed its treatment protocols for opioid-dependent babies to focus on compassionate family-centered care, the results were dramatic. Hospital stays dropped from twenty-one days down to just six. Staff, patients, and families all benefited.

It can be difficult for healthcare providers to overcome negative feelings about patients who are suffering from substance use disorders. Recognizing this, we launched ["What Happens to Compassion During an Opioid Epidemic?"](#) -- a national program to help caregivers sustain their own resilience while continuing to provide effective, compassionate care.

"If you're equipped to walk alongside the person who is suffering, you'll experience a profound sense of purpose and meaning. This is why people go into healthcare. Compassion is the answer," says our Chief Medical Officer Dr. Beth Lown.

[Watch the Video](#)

We never know when illness or injury will strike. When it does, we all want a healthcare team by our side that is ready to support us emotionally, psychologically *and* medically. This is why our work is so important.

Please help us support our healthcare community that continues to serve as a beacon of hope and healing.

[Support Our Work](#)

## Last Month's Top Facebook Posts



Here are the top [Facebook](#) posts that resonated most with our followers last month:

- [Read about Dr. Margaret Plews-Ogan, who teaches her students to include a descriptor that humanizes each patient: "Mrs. X is a 32-year-old English professor whose specialty is Dickens. She is being admitted for..."](#)
- [One doctor at Schwartz Center healthcare member site Cooper University Health Care talks about his experience "leaning in" with his patients: "I connected more. I cared more, not less," he said. "That's when the fog of burnout began to lift, so it changed everything for me, too."](#)
- [People who are caregivers - by nature or circumstance - often find it difficult to offer themselves the compassion they freely give to others. Yet to fully give to others, you need to give to yourself.](#)

[Follow Us on Facebook](#)

Save the Dates!

### Facilitation Workshops

**Friday, Sept. 14, 2018**  
Seattle, WA

View the [details](#) for our 2018 sessions

[Schwartz Center healthcare members only](#)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

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**23rd Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner**

**Thursday, Nov. 8, 2018**

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center  
415 Summer St.  
Boston, MA

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Join Our Team

We're seeking talented candidates to fill the following roles at the Schwartz Center:

- Director of Communications
- Director of Programs
- Development Data Coordinator
- Development Intern - Fall

[Learn more](#) about these opportunities!

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