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Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to write this first annual report for WeCanRow-Boston. We are able to look back at this past year and recognize the work that has gone into creating our local chapter of the national WeCanRow program. In order to make our program available to breast cancer survivors, we have focused our first year efforts on developing a stable, rower-run organization that is fiscally sound and responsible.

With the help of our nominating committee and interested community members, we now have a slate of officers, a board of directors, an advisory board and physical therapist in addition to our two coaches and volunteer coxswains. This year we incorporated, became an official charity in the state of Massachusetts and are waiting to receive our 501(c)(3) status as a federal, charitable organization.

We are more fiscally stable due entirely to member fees and grassroots fundraising efforts. We have a subcommittee that is working with a grant writer to focus on larger initiatives. We have been careful to ensure we are a financially viable organization before accepting new members; I am pleased to say that we have had 3 new women join us this Fall with more requests pending.

Community Rowing, Incorporated (CRI) has been very supportive of WCR-B during this fledgling year. Since our growth potential is clearly linked to CRI's capacity to accommodate us, we are working to secure a positive, continuing relationship. We have increased our visibility at CRI through volunteer efforts at various events. In addition, WCR-B was represented at a community meeting in Brighton to demonstrate our support for the building of a new boathouse (work is anticipated to begin this Spring).

With our coaches, we are crafting a safe, developmental rowing program for new members that pairs them with more experienced members. At the same time we will have programs that will be appropriately challenging for regular members and racing team members.

Our hope for the coming year is to make WCR-B's presence in the community more public. Now that we have increased the stability of our program, our strategic plan for 2007 includes more formal outreach to medical organizations so we can increase our new member enrollment. We will continue to develop our financial base to ensure that we can have enough personnel and equipment to make our program available to more breast cancer survivors.

As we look forwards to a year of growth, we would like to thank all of you for your support.

Phyllis Groskin, President  
WeCanRow-Boston, Inc.  
[www.wecanrowboston.org](http://www.wecanrowboston.org)

## Mission Statement

We Can Row is specifically designed to allow breast cancer survivors to reorient themselves with their bodies, giving survivors a healthy expression of control and putting them in contact with other women of similar circumstances.

## Actions and Accomplishments for 2006

### Organizational:

- Built a clear vision about organization and developed local objectives
- Wrote a 3-year strategic plan
- Became a licensed charity in Massachusetts
- Filed 501c3 for national charitable organization status
- Wrote bylaws
- Built a membership structure, regular meetings
- Determined to be a rower-managed group
- Elected officer(s) and shared responsibilities
- Created a Nominating Committee, Built Board of Directors and Advisory Board
- Networked with other WCR chapters
- Built an independent relationship with CRI leadership (paid member fee, submitted all required forms)
- Investigated affiliation with university rowing program
- Designed and launched WCRB website ([www.wecanrowboston.org](http://www.wecanrowboston.org))
- Created forms for new member intake, liability, waivers
- Member outreach
- Buddy contacts for new members
- Coaching relationships
- Physical Therapist
- CRI contract and relationship

### Financial:

- Joined US Rowing, secured appropriate insurance
- Established clear cost of membership with SES flexibility.
- Instituted fee structure for regular members to cover program costs and new member fees
- Covered costs (carried by us for the first time)
- Learned how to build a financial base (in progress)
- Set up bank account and signature authority
- Elected treasurer/money manager
- Began smaller financial initiatives: yard sales, holiday sales, WCR-B branded jewelry, notecards, t-shirts
- Began to investigate larger financial initiatives: grants

### Rowing:

- Clarified the goals of the three different nights of rowing (new member night, racing 8, racing 4)
- Increased solid development and safety
- Began the season with CRI safety video
- Purchased WCR-B lights for boats
- Initiated a "qualification event" for the 2x weekly/racing practice
- Continually working to improve carrying the boat
- Entered a team boat in the Lawrence Regatta in July
- Connected more strongly with GROW via our coxswain and races
- Initiated WCR-B session with Cotting Connection to use the tanks at Simmons (November-March)



## 2006 Annual Report